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SuperSoccer

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2000

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AUSTRALIA'S OFFICIAL PREMIER FOOTBALL PUBLICATION

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- Australia's Premier State Joeys
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Late night candles for unifiers

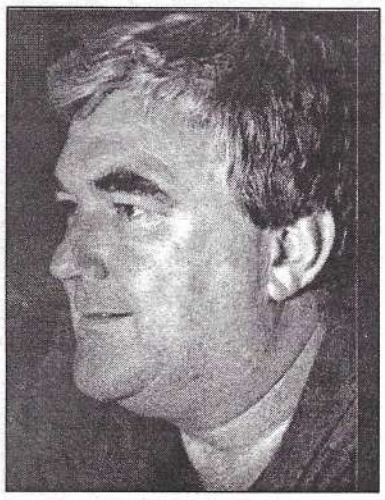
LAST week the midnight oil was well and truly burned as the NSWSF and NSWASF took major steps along the road to unification.

"There were a lot of late night meetings," said NSWSF CEO Robert Waddell from the organisation's Parklea HQ.

"It has been a really busy week but there are a lot of things to be done to facilitate the merger."

Waddell has recently taken over from long serving Peter Thorne who has now retired north to Queensland.

With heads of agreement documents now signed the two major soccer peak bodies are working on the "nuts and bolts" of pulling together.



"This is going to be of major benefit to football in this state," said NSWSF President Peter Gray (pictured).

"It has been a long time coming and I am now really pleased that it is working out.

"There are a lot of great people in the NSWASF and I am sure that it will be a marvellous opportunity for us both to further develop what is New South Wales' major sport.

"Some people forget that there are more people playing soccer than any other football code in this state."

AND look out for *SuperSoccer's* extended coverage of senior league and junior league soccer in the new look weekly newspaper in the New Year.

Channel 7 memo highlights the big shaft

CHANNEL SEVEN has come in for a torrid time from the soccer world in recent weeks.

Slammed by fans, players, officials and media sources it has even been cynically suggested that their real interest in soccer was as a stick against AFL.

That suggestion gained new credence last week when the network boss Kerry Stokes personally stepped into the fight for the AFL media rights.

In a memo sent to all staff, Stokes said Seven had a four-decade commitment to Australian football: "I am personally committed to that partnership."

He also said that the AFL negotiations were as significant as those of the Super League in rugby league five years ago.

Stokes' response follows an AFL club presidents' meeting last Monday where the league executive briefed the 16 clubs on a $100 million-a-year offer to broadcast football on free-to-air, pay-TV and the Internet from rival networks Nine and Ten, pay-TV company Foxtel and Telstra.

Seven, which has been the AFL's traditional broadcaster and holds the rights until the end of 2001, has first and last rights call on the new multi-media contract.

While Seven executives are upset that the AFL has given the network no indication of a deadline for the negotiations for the new contract, AFL chief executive Wayne Jackson told the presidents on Monday the new deal was expected to be finalised by Christmas.

Only four months ago Channel Seven walked away from negotiations with the AFL, claiming if it could not have all the media rights – free-to-air through to Internet – then it was not interested in bidding at all.

"While I have learnt over a period of time not to try and negotiate in the press, I want to assure you that the Seven Network remains committed to building on its partnership with the AFL," Stokes said in his memo.

And ironically he continued: "International experience shows that continuity of agreements between a sport and a television network is the single most important factor in the success of a sport.

"Whenever a sport changes television networks, the result is never an unqualified success."

Ironic, that is, because of his network's almost total ignorance of their role in soccer broadcasting.

Former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill negotiated a ten year deal with Channel 7 worth $25million.

However in light of the negotiations with AFL that sum, and the length of the contract, look even more paltry.

And Stokes's own declaration for AFL is just another indication that soccer has been shafted—big time.

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COVER PICTURE

SOCCEROO Danny Tiatto: he had a brilliant game in the 2-0 humiliation of Scotland. See SuperSoccer's 4 page tribute.

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Socceroos strengthen international calendar

THE English Football Association has responded warmly to moves for an "Ashes" series between Australia and England.

A Soccer Australia delegation met the FA's chief executive, Adam Crozier, in London last Thursday and set in train negotiations for an annual fixture between the two great sporting rivals.

Soccer Australia commissioner Tony Labbozzetta also expects to finalise arrangements for the Socceroos to play a representative team from the Catalan region of northern Spain to mark the centenary of the Catalan Football Association.

The match would probably be played next month at Barcelona's cavernous Nou Camp Stadium.

Another friendly, against Wales, is likely to be arranged for Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in February.

The fixtures that would stir most Australian passions would, of course, be against England.

The most favoured concept under discussion is for a two-match series spread over two years.

It is envisaged England would travel to Australia in the southern winter in non-World Cup or European championship years, while the Socceroos would play in England late in the alternate years.

Asked if the win over Scotland had helped negotiations, Labbozzetta said: "Let's just say the talks were very fruitful.

"We both agreed that we want a better arrangement than we already have. As far as I know, England have only played Australia once, in the late 1980s.

"We've got the concept, we've got the ideas, now it's a matter of both sides going away to work out the nuts and bolts, looking at suitable times, etcetera."

England had offered to play a friendly against Australia on May 30, but this clashed with Australia's involvement in the Confederations Cup.

Negotiations for the Catalunyan match are almost complete.

It would not be an "A" international, so England-based Australians such as Mark Viduka and Mark Schwarzer would be unlikely to gain a release from their clubs.

Instead, the Socceroos would consist mainly of Australians based in European leagues on winter breaks.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina cheekily suggested English sports fans would love the chance to see the two nations meeting regularly at soccer, given that they are tired of Australia's domination in cricket, rugby and rugby league.

"I'm looking along the lines of an Ashes series, possibly over a two-year period, one home and one away," he said.

"That would draw enormous interest in Australia.

"We've had the old friendly banter between sports fans from both countries and, well, we've beaten them at everything else so now let's try football."

Around a dozen Australians have had first team experience in the Premier League this season, and a top strength Aussie side could feature names familiar to English fans such as Mark Viduka, Mark Bosnich, Harry Kewell, Mark Schwarzer, Paul Okon, Danny Tiatto, John Aloisi and Hayden Foxe.

"If we can get our best squad together, the names that are in there are some big names, and they're well known throughout Britain and in Europe, so hopefully it may seem a bit more attractive than in the past," he said.

Vidmar wants to play for Rangers as club v country row brews

ANOTHER club versus country row is brewing as Socceroo Tony Vidmar attempts to balance a title bid with Rangers and Australia's World Cup dreams.

Others Aussies likely to be hit by this include Vidmar's teammate Craig Moore, Leeds' Harry Kewell and Manchester City's Danny Tiatto as the Socceroos have to play their first round of qualifying matches in April.

With all clubs likely to be in involved in promotion/relegation battles, the outcome would appear to be more heated debate in this endless argument.

Vidmar said: "The first phase of World Cup qualifiers takes place in April but that is something we will have to discuss when the games come around.

"Hopefully, they will bring in the Australian-based players for those matches which come right at the end of league campaigns around Europe.

"It could present a terrible dilemma for myself and Craig.

"You want to play in every game for your country and especially in World Cup qualifiers but sometimes that is just not possible.

"With a club like Rangers we are expected to be involved in domestic competitions right up until the end of the season and we both know we'll be needed for our club if the championship race goes to the wire."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should Farina play the home-based Aussies in the Oceania qualifying series?
Should Farina tell Vidmar to do he right thing?
Is it time that Soccer Australia contracted the national squad players?
Join the debate by sending you thoughts to;
SuperSoccer, PO Box 98 CORRIMAL NSW 2518 or email at supersoccerthemag@hotmail.com. (Fax 4285 7482).
You could also join or interactive newsgroup—just drop us a line.

NSW Premier League

NSW Premier League

www.nswpremierleague.com

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER
Under 19s: 6.00pm First Grade: 8.00pm
Canterbury v Penrith Panthers HENSON PARK

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER
Under 19s: 5.00pm First Grade: 7.00pm
Leichhardt Tigers v Bonnyrigg LAMBERT PARK
Sutherland v Blacktown City SEYMOUR SHAW
Under 19s: 4.30pm First Grade: 6.30pm
Belconnen v St George WEST BELCONNEN SPORTS

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER
Under 19s: 4.30pm First Grade: 6.30pm
Parramatta Eagles v Central Coast MELITA STADIUM

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The match from hell; Demons still on top

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3 REVIEW

Belconnen Blue Devils 2
Blacktown City Demons 2

THE two unbeaten Premier League teams, Blacktown City and Belconnen, clashed in Belconnen last Saturday and although it was the raw Canberra newcomers against the best credentialed New South Wales team, the honours, if not the scoreline, were very much even in a very entertaining encounter.

The Demons ran out 2:1 winners but the Belconnen display, especially for the first thirty minutes of the second half, suggested that they are going to be a force in their first season at this level.

The highly mobile and former Canberra Cosmos striker Steve Lazzari was unlucky not to find the target on a number of occasions and the resolute Blacktown defence had to be on their mettle to prevent him adding to his four-goals tally from his previous two games.

In the midfield Jaime Mauro controlled much of the play for the Devils and Tony Giannasca between the sticks was in fine form, frequently thwarting City attacks.

In the end it was, once again, the skills of Blacktown's dynamic duo, Damien Brown and Darren Iocca, that finally separated the two sides with both players getting on the score sheet in the first half.

City opened their account in the 32nd minute following excellent wing play from Ben Willard wide on the right.

His long, diagonal cross to the far post was delicately chipped back across goal for Iocca to notch his sixth goal of the season with a close-in header.

Brown celebrated his seventy fifth consecutive appearance for the Demons five minute later when he arrived on the end of Iocca's well driven low cross to the edge of the six yard box and sweetly chipped the ball over the diving Giannasca to double his team's advantage.

Having had their own way for much of the first half, Blacktown were knocked out of their comfort zone at the start of the second half when only an athletic, one-handed save from John Crawley prevented Scott Manson from opening his account.

In the very next minute Crawley was on hand yet again to stop Lazzari from firing home Matthew Julienne's well-measured cross.

The Blue Devils took control of the match and their endeavours were eventually rewarded in the 65th minute when Crawley parried Lazzari's shot and Julienne managed to scramble the ball over the line at his second attempt.

Stung into action by this breach, City gradually wrestled control back from the home side and in the last ten minutes Brown's shot following Iocca's defence-splitting through ball was well saved by Giannasca.

Zlatko Donev had been introduced by coach Brian Brown to bolster Demon's fire power and he was unfortunate when his measured strike cannoned off the post after he had meandered his way around three defenders.

As the match neared the final whistle, Donev was again foiled after midfield general Peter Sermanni, and Brown, combined to feed him the ball in space but Giannasca was equal to the task again.

In the end it was probably the maturity and experience of the well-drilled Blacktown team that secured all three points and the many spectators at this well appointed and picturesque venue that witnessed this highly entertaining encounter were in no doubt that the two teams on display will surely be challenging for the title at the business end of the season.

Don O'Regan

Central Coast 1
Leichhardt Tigers 2

DESPITE a week of continuous rain that continued throughout both matches at North Power Stadium, Gosford, the Premier League match between the Coasties and Leichhardt Tigers went ahead with no sign of the 'cow paddock' that had upset the Northern Spirit management seven days earlier.

In fact the playing surface was lush green with no sign of a bad bounce or 'ball bobbling' nor any sign of surface water.

The game, in fact, was a highly entertaining affair, with two evenly matched teams playing end to end football.

Leichhardt ran out winners by 2 goals to 1, partly justifying their off-season expensive signings but the Coasties, who left the previous week's disastrous form on the training pitch, made them earn their first points of the season.

A crowd of 345 was on hand, quite reasonable given the weather conditions, and all would have gone home happy with the game they had witnessed, if not the result.

For the first ten minutes both teams were getting used to the 'cow paddock' in a midfield joust, but when they actually realised there were no North Power demons around they opened up.

Bruni flew down the left, sent over a teasing cross to Karavatakis, only for the ace goalscorer to put the ball into the side netting.

Up at the other end Knight fired a red hot volley that Anastasiadis somehow got a hand to.

Five minutes later Milicevic hauled down Peaty.

His free kick was only half cleared, Ritchie put a beautiful ball through to Peaty who had run past the defence and slid the ball under Anastasiadis into the net.

The Coasties were celebrating, the Tigers were downcast and the assistant referee had his flag up for offside.

A cruel decision—but that's life.

Karavatakis picked up a Tomasevic pass but shot straight at goalkeeper Moore.

Knight then flew down the wing, appeared to be upended in the penalty area but the referee called play on; the

NSW Premier League

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3
Friday 17 November
St George Saints v Parramatta Eagles PP
Saturday 18 November
Central Coast 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2
Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Canterbury Marrickville PP
Belconnen Blue Devils 1 Blacktown City Demons 2
Penrith Panthers v Sutherland Sharks PP

LEADING SCORERS
5 Darren Iocca Blacktown
4 Steve Lazzari Belconnen
2 Robbie Gomez Bonnyrigg
2 Michael Hawrysiuk Bonnyrigg

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Blacktown City	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
2	Belconnen	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
3	Bonnyrigg	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
4	St George	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
5	Canterbury Marrickville	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
6	Leichhardt	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
7	Central Coast	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
8	Sutherland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
9	Parramatta	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
10	Penrith	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 4
Friday 24 November
Canterbury Marrickville v Penrith
Saturday 25 November
Sutherland v Blacktown City
Belconnen v St George
Leichhardt v Bonnyrigg
Sunday 26 November
Parramatta v Central Coast

SOCCER WRITING

Do you have an interest in developing your writing skills, do you have a passion for the round ball game, would you like to join *SuperSoccer's* team of writers?

We are looking for up and coming writers to increase our coverage of Federation football at Premier, Super and State League levels as well as regional and country areas. Player profiles, interviews and features will add to our coverage as *SuperSoccer* broadens its reporting of the game in New South Wales and the ACT.
We are also looking for writers who wish to cover junior soccer.

This could be that opportunity that you have been looking for to break into the tough and competitive world of sports writing.

You should be reliable, well spoken, have a good grasp of English grammar and sentence construction and be prepared to work to a deadline. You must also be 18 years or older and have a good background knowledge of soccer.

If you have these qualities and are interested in pursuing this path you should send a short resume along with a story of 300-400 words (other than a match report) to;

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CALLED OFF

LAST Friday night's fixtures between St George Saints and Parramatta Eagles was called off due to the storms which hit Sydney all last week. The Saint's earlier Round 2 fixture against Leichhardt Tigers had been abandoned in the second half because of a floodlight failure making it two weeks in a row without a full game for the St George club.

Both fixtures will be re-scheduled by NSWSF at a later date.

The Round 3 fixture between Penrith Panthers and Sutherland Sharks was also affected by the wet weather and postponed until a later date as was the Bonnyrigg v Canterbury match.

Wet and stormy weather has been a feature of the opening three rounds of the inaugural NSW Premier League—but crowds have remained up.

"We were hoping to get bigger crowds than we did for winter football," said NSWSF President Peter Gray, "and that is exactly the way it is working out."

The record for the Premier League was set in Round 1 with 5,0000 watching the Toyota Park match between Sutherland Shire and Parramatta Eagles.

www.nswpremierleague.com

BELCONNEN'S former Canberra Cosmos and Australian junior 'keeper, Tony Giannasca.

crowd of 345 sounded like 3,450—but referee Greg Leverton was unmoved.

On the half hour mark Coasties got a corner.

Leary had a shot which was blocked and then rebounded back to him but the second ball grazed the outside of the post.

Was there ever going to be a goal?

The answer came five minutes later.

The ball was crossed high into the Coasties penalty area and Borg rose high to head past a stranded Moore.

1-0 to the Tigers.

Right on half time Coasties pressured when Williams put a cross into the Tigers area and Roper flew in for the header but Anastasiadis' fist got to the ball first.

Half time: Coasties 0 Tigers 1.

Straight from the restart Bruni forced Moore to make a stunning save.

Marshall put Knight through but his shot flew high, wide and not so handsome.

Then Karavatakis picked up a loose ball in a tackle, got to the edge of the six yard box—and missed.

And so the action continued up and down the pitch.

With just three minutes to go Tomasevic picked up a ball and went down the left to just one metre off the goal line but instead of crossing he fired an unstoppable shot into the corner of the net—2-0.

But wait, there's more .....

Coasties went back up the other end, the ball was crossed into the penalty box and Knight's header went in off the post, 2-1.

Coasties tried again and a shot from Peaty went wide, and again when Knight shot straight at Anastasiadis.

Then the referee spoilt the fun by blowing the final whistle.

Both teams walked off the field saturated but they had put on a good show.

Pity the weather was as it was, the match deserved a much larger crowd.

The real heroes of the day, however, were the North Power Stadium ground staff—we still never found out where they had the 'cow paddock'.

Ray Sandell

AND NOW ... IT'S E-SOCCER

THE New South Wales Soccer Federation has spent the relatively short off-season since the winter season ended in August improving and expanding its comprehensive web site at www.soccernsw.com.au.

The site is consistently amongst the most visited dedicated soccer sites in Australia and was rated as a 'Top 10 Cool Site' by Netscape earlier this year.

The features in the new-look site include a search facility to 'find a club'; an online webstore; online forms for clubs, individuals and referees; and information for coaches, referees and even those doing school projects on soccer.

The site also offers free web-based e-mail with a soccernsw.com address and the very latest in WAP technology.

Included as part of the re-development are separate sites for the NSW Premier League competition at www.nswpremierleague.com and the NSW Sapphires women's national league team at www.nswsapphires.com.

The site was designed by Chris Beattie, with the database development by Bennett Oprysa of Web City.

www.nswpremierleague.com

THE NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

Belconnen Blue Devils

Founded: 1970
Coach: Lino Fiorese
Home Ground: West Belconnen Sports Ground, Holt
Home Strip: Sky Blue, Navy Blue & Sky Blue
Alternate Strip: all Navy blue

Blacktown City Demons

Founded: 1953
Coach: Brian Brown
Home Ground: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Avenue, Seven Hills
Home Strip Shirt: Red & white stipe with black trim, Shorts: Black, Socks: Black with white trim
Alternate Strip Shirt: Claret and blue, white, claret

Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Founded: 1968
Coach: Doug Utjesenovic
Home Ground: Serbian Centre, Simpson Rd, Bonnyrigg
Home Strip: Red shirts; Shorts blue; Socks white
Alternate Strip: All white

Canterbury Marrickville Berries

Founded: 1889
Coach: Jimmy Patikas
Home Ground: Henson Park, Sydenham Rd, Marrickville
Home Strip: Blue with gold trim
Alternate Strip: White with blue trim.

Central Coast Coasties

Founded: 1982
Coach: Dale Eggleton
Home Ground: North Power Stadium, Gosfod
Home Strip: White with red and blue trim shirt red; blue socks and shorts.
Alternate Strip: Blue with red and white trim, blue shorts, white socks.

Leichhardt Tigers

Founded: 1954
Coach: Les DeCelis
Home Ground: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt
Home Strip: White Shirt with maroon/sky blue trim: Shorts Maroon with sky blue trim: Socks Maroon with sky blue trim
Alternate Strip: Shirt white with maroon & sky blue trim; Shorts white with maroon & sky blue trim; Socks white with maroon & sky blue trim

Parramatta Eagles

Founded: 1956
Coach: Tam Finlayson
Home Ground: Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, Chester Hill
Home Strip: shirt white with red tril; Shorts white with red tril; Socks white with red tril
Alternate Strip: Shirt red with white trim; Shorts red with white trim; Socks red with white trim

Penrith Panthers

Founded: 1990
Coach: Stan Ackerley
Home Ground: Andrews Road Field, Andrews Road, Penrith
Home Strip: Shirt black with white, black, green, yellow & red trim; Shorts black with white trim; Socks black with white, green, yellow & red trim
Alternate Strip: shirt white, black & red vertical stripes on sleeves; Shorts white with red trim; Socks white with red trim

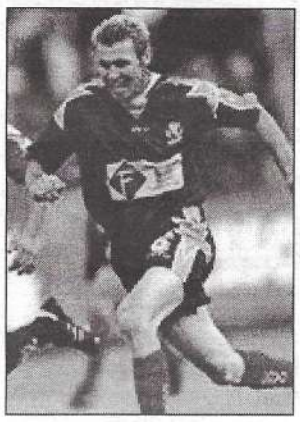
St George Saints

Founded: 1924
Coach: John Sentas
Home Ground: St George Stadium, Barton Park, Rockdale
Home Strip: White and red shirt; white and red shorts and socks.
Alternate Strip: Red and white shirts, shorts and socks.

Sutherland Sharks

Founded: 1936
Coach: Billy McColl
Home Ground: Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevarde, Miranda
Home Strip: Shirt sky blue & white; Black shorts with sky blue trim; Black socks.
Alternate Strip: Shirt yellow with blue trim; Shorts sky blue with white trim; Socks sky blue with white trim

FOOTBALL PATROL ..... FOOTBALL PATROL ..... FOOTBALL PATROL ..... FOOTBALL PA-



Eastern Pride striker BRIAN MACNICOL played his 200th NSL match when his team took on Carlton at Melbourne's Epping Stadium last Sunday.
Pride defender DEAN FAK also played his 50th NSL game.

Wollongong Wolves defender GEORGE SOURIS made his 100th NSL appearance when the Wolves confronted the Parramatta Power at Parramatta Stadium on Sunday.

Blacktown City captain DAMON LANGAN lists 'the man from Lotto' as the person he would most like to meet in the club's media guide.

The long serving midfielder has now been at the west Sydney club for twelve years.

Northern Spirit's sick list includes NOEL SPENCER (leg - 1 week) and ROBBIE SLATER.

Sydney United striker TOM PNDELJAK got married this week.

Newcastle United's injuries woes continue. Out on the long term list are Andy Harper (toe - 2 weeks), Esala Masi (knee - 6 weeks), and Damian Smith (groin - 7 weeks).

ZORAN MATIC, coach of the Adelaide City Force, coached his 350th game for the Force against Northern Spirit on Friday.

Marconi Stallions' EDDIE KRNCEVIC was in charge of his 100th NSL match against Sydney Olympic on Saturday.

Parramatta Power's injured stars are M Byrnes (foot - 4 weeks) and L Campbell (ankle - 2 weeks).

After keeping the Northern Spirit scoreless in a nil-all draw, Newcastle United goalkeeper BOB CATLIN is now just one clean sheet away from keeping 100 clean sheets in NSL matches.

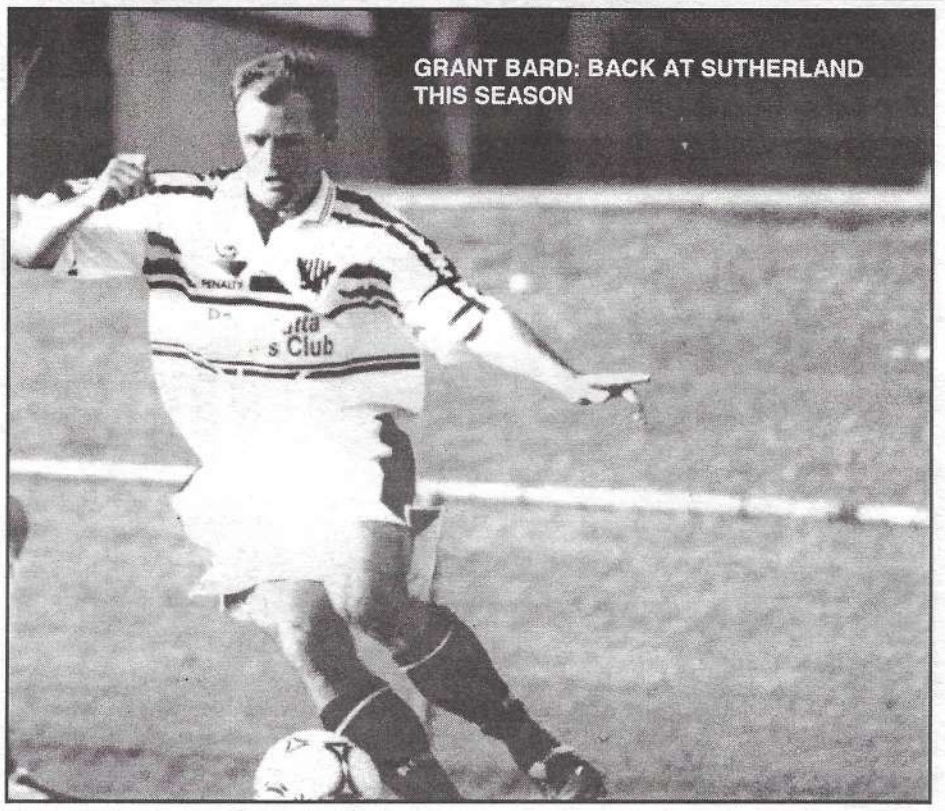
The 35-year-old Catlin, currently on 320 NSL appearances, would then be the first goalkeeper in the NSL to have kept his opposition scoreless in 100 matches.

Gary Meier (Sydney Olympic 1977-93) is second behind the Newcastle goalkeeper, with 88 clean sheets.

And big Bobby has maybe the best nickname in the league—Postman Pat.

Wollongong Wolves goalkeeper DANIEL BELTRAME has undergone knee surgery in a bid to clear up knee cartilage damage that has troubled him for several weeks.

His absence will give off-season signing GRANT BARLOW the chance to impress, while SCOTT WHALAN was



GRANT BARD: BACK AT SUTHERLAND THIS SEASON

been named in the senior squad for the first time as reserve 'keeper at the weekend.

Blacktown City's PAUL DEE was sent off in the Under 19s game against Belconnen and will automatically miss next weekend's match.

CENTRAL COAST are looking to field Women's teams in the senior and Under 19 state league divisions next season.

Adelaide City's former Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar, who has suffered a persistent groin injury, was sent on as a substitute late in the match against Northern Spirit—his first of the season.

Blacktown City striker DARREN IOCCA has now scored in every round of the inaugural NSW Premier League.

In the same match JIMMY ASCHNER scored all four goals in Blacktown's 4-3 win. The former NSL striker is struggling to make the Blacktown line-up because of the form shown by Damian Brown and Darren Iocca.

Central Coast have added ROD HUTCHISON to their first team squad and MICHAEL COOK to their youth team squad.

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Friday 24 November
Canterbury Marrickville v Penrith
Saturday 25 November
Sutherland v Blacktown City
Belconnen v St George
Leichhardt v Bonnyrigg
Sunday 26 November
Parramatta v Central Coast

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
ROUND 7
Friday 24 November
Northern Spirit v Perth Glory
Adelaide City v Newcastle United
Auckland Kingz v Carlton
Wollongong Wolves v Canberra Cosmos
Eastern Pride v Marconi Stallions
Sunday 26 November
South Melbourne v Parramatta Power
Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers
Sydney Olympic v Melbourne Knights

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE
ROUND 7
Friday 24 November
Wollongong Wolves v Canberra Cosmos
Saturday 25 November
Sydney United v QAS
ACT Academy v Northern Spirit
AIS v Newcastle United
Sunday 26 November
Marconi Stallions Colts v Parramatta Power
Sydney Olympic Youth v Sydney Olympic Academy
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Newcastle United Colts v Marconi Stallions Youth
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NSW Football History

The Scots miners who shocked the football scene

by Garry Barnsley

JOADJA Creek, near Mittagong, is a ghost town—a decaying reminder of a century ago when this isolated valley housed a thriving community employed in the mining and refining of shale-oil and coal.

For about thirty years from 1870 the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company prospered at Joadja Creek, employing the mot modern equipment then available.

It brought experienced miners and their families from Scotland to the wilds of the remote and rugged bushlands of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

By 1911 the company was in liquidation—its equipment, rolling stock and lands sold off.

But in 1881 about three quarters of the hundreds of miners in the valley were Scottish.

Their dialect was described by a contemporary as "broad and incomprehensible", their dress "quaint" and their habits "peculiar".

Why were the Scots chosen?

Scottish miners in their homeland were skilled in shale-oil extraction.

Men were engaged in Glasgow and undertook to work for the Company for two years at a wage of £3 per week, which compared very favourbaly with the prevailing Scottish wage of £1 4/.

Passage money for miners and their families was paid by the Company and deducted from their wages at the rate of 5/- a week.

But conditions in the valley were tough—even the journey from Sydney's dockside to Joadja was long and arduous, even for an emigrant who had just endured a three month journey by sea from Scotland.

The miners were not always happy with what they found in the valley, complaining of "houses at best not fit for a dog, let alone a human being".

The Company took legal action against those who absconded before the expiration of their two and a quarter year's contract.

The ability to 'make do' was a valuable asset in the valley.

For entertainment the Scots brought their traditions with them, including an affection for the game of soccer.

It was a strong sport in the valley as early as the 1880s.

Still surviving is the Atkinson Price Challenge Cup dated 1887, believed to be the oldest known soccer trophy in Australia.

It was won by Joadja Creek in June 1887 on the Queen's Birthday weekend against a Sydney team.

The 45cm high embossed cup is made in the shape of a thistle and topped by the figure of a soccer player.

Frozen forever in the act of kicking a ball, the little man's flowing moustache and tam-o-shanter, knee length pants and long socks make him a very dashing figure.

The cup is owned by historians Leonie and Greg Knapman of Mittagong.

Leonie is the author of a book published in 1988 telling the history of Joadja Creek and its people.

It was while researching the history of the soccer club in the valley that she came across the cup and a medal with the Joada Football Club and a soccer ball inscribed on it.

Joadja Creek Southern Cross Football Club was formed in 1887 and in 1888 was affiliated with the Southern British Football Association.

As early as 1882 soccer matches wee scheduled at Joadja Creek and at that time an oatmeal bag filled with rags served as their first soccer ball.

Reports sent home to Scotland in the 1880s indicate that the Joadja Creek club became a strong force, winning matches both locally and in Sydney.

The Scottish sporting magazine, *The Scottish Umpire*, printed interesting stories of the newly formed British Football Association in Australia.

They were sent home by the-then prominent Sydney football enthusiast, Mr JH Nisbet.

Through his columns some of the history of Joadja Creek was found.

He wrote that in 1888 there were around 17 clubs playing the British Association games in NSW, including Joadja Creek.

Following is a description in 1888 from a Sydney team believed to be Granville, when they travelled to Joadja Creek for a game; "Joadja Creek is 93 miles on the southern line.

"It is a lively trip.

"One leaves Sydney at 9am and arrives at Mittagong at 12.30pm.

"You then take passage from there to Joadja in a contractors engine, to which is attached a sort of van with seats in it and any trucks that may be going there.

"You get yourself well shalken for about two hours, doing a distance of 20 miles.

"You get out at the top of a hill at the bottom of which is Joadja Creek.

"The said hill is without a word of lie 4,000 feet high.

"You have to go down this hill and you have to watch you don't break your neck.

"When they started the Southern Cross Football Club at Joadja Creek they asked a team to go up from Sydney.

"We managed a fair team.

"Thinking that it was a soft thing we found ourselves mistaken as they beat us 2-0."

The hill was actually 600 feet high not 4,000 feet, but the railway incline they had to travel down was a 2 in 1 fall and would have seemed to have gone on forever.

Joadja Creek also competed in a Sydney competition called the Gardiner Cup.

From the few results found in those early games they seemd to hold their own with a number of wins.

In 1889 Joadja also had a second team who played for the Sydney Football Association medals (commonly called junior badges).

At this stage junior did not necessarily mean youth or schoolboys.

It was reported that although Joadja Creek had only "been started for two seasons" they possessed the best record of any club in the association having only sustained one defeat in that time.

Only one reference appears in the 1890 Sydney press relating to the Joadja Creek Soccer Club.

This was when they played Balgownie Rangers at Balgownie in late July.

No results were found.

In1897 the Moss Vale British Football Association was formed and throughout the years Joadja Creek played them as well as teams from Mittagong and Bowral.

By 1900 little of the township and works was left and the miners moved onto other mining areas who gained some of the best soccer players that could be found at that time.

Like so many of their countrymen who had emigrated to the new world, the Scottish miners and their families left a permanent legacy for modern Australia.

The ghostly reminders of an old shale-oil town are now deserted but the descendants of the Jodaja workers who toiled in the remote bush beneath a southern sun went on to forge the great nation that Australia is today.

EDITORIAL

WATCHING the Australian and Scottish players lining up in the tunnel at Hampden Park last week just before that historic win I started to reflect on something I had read by the great George Young, Scotland's immediate post-war colossus.

He was standing in the same tunnel on the verge of his first ever international and was terrified. That it was against England, the 'auld enemy', made it even tougher.

He recalls that he looked down at his shirt, saw Scotland's rampant lion and it roared at him: "Get out and beat those English bastards!" The passion that he showed in that game as Scotland once again put their old foe to the sword was the hallmark of his entire career. But it wasn't only Young's career that was affected by passion; it was an entire nation's.

So looking back to that incident last week it was soon obvious where the passion was—and it wasn't in a dark blue jumper.

Frank Farina has installed that rarest of commodities into his collection of international footballers while the Scots were instead content to share the odd joke, maybe even the odd comment about wages or their stocks and shares. Because that, unfortunately, is a by-product of an age when footballers are getting paid like kings and movie stars.

Why should they put that extra ounce of sweat into their performance, risk an injury in a goal saving tackle or just push it that extra yard to get a ball?

Gladly, the Aussies showed a sense of national pride and spent the entire game giving Scotland, a country where passion used to be everything, a real lesson.

Former Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons would also often say to me that that was one of the great things about Scots, their passion for football. Craig Brown, the Scottish coach, may well talk about an "off day at the office" but if that is how he views the round ball game then it is little wonder that the Tartan Army has deserted him.

So now it is on to the World Cup for the Socceroos and if Farina can instil that same rare commodity in the whole of his campaign then Australia may just do it. I believe that the Road to Tokyo, or Korea, is a very tough one and that should Australia qualify then we will have pulled off a major coup. But it will also make it harder for home-based players to get into that squad because passion is a commodity which has slowly been seeping out of our local game also.

Too often games are played at a snail's pace and the players give little thought to a losing performance. And if that is the case at National League level then it will certainly spread throughout the rest of the game.

My earnest hope is that the lesson that Farina provided is one which others will learn from; that even the best can be humbled by a dose of passion. It is an old-fashioned commodity in an era where it really is undervalued, except maybe by the likes of George Young and Mike Lyons.

But one thing which players must be able to look to for help is their shirt. The pride in pulling that on, seemingly such a simple act, has got to be huge. But how can you have pride in wearing something which looks like a washing machine explosion?

Let us start it at the top and see it filter down through the whole world of Australian football. Start with the Socceroos marvellous success in Glasgow and keep that ball going. Along the way adidas are going to launch a new Socceroo shirt; I just hope that it doesn't resemble any of the disasters that they have perpetrated on the football public in the last decade. After all what the hell is wrong with the traditional Green and Gold?

Maybe even George Young would have liked a plain Green and Gold shirt.

Bruce Campbell

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THE official publication of NSWSF has now gone on-line with its interactive news group. Internet users are invited to subscribe to our free service and keep in touch with other readers. Post your questions, add your news, just drop a line. Each week a new post will be added from *SuperSoccer* and details of forthcoming issues and STOP PRESS items will also be added.

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SuperSocceroos

The Shark man who doesn't bite

By Ken Lawrence
in Manchester

AT TIMES it seemed that in the last two games against David Beckham that Danny Tiatto appeared intent on taking the shirt off the latest England captain's back.

The Melbourne-born defender had no intention of altering his attitude at Maine Road last Saturday—and got a yellow card very early on in the dazzling game for his troubles.

He was also involved later on in the punched up which was one of the many on and off ball incidents in the 1-0 win to United.

Having once habitually risked his life by surfing waters inhabited by man-eating sharks, the feisty little Aussie saw no reason why he should be intimidated by his opponent's abilities, reputation or agitated responses to close company other than that of pop star wife Victoria or baby Brooklyn.

Tiatto said: "I've had a few scares with sharks, seen other people chewed up a little when I've been surfing off Bell's Beach in Melbourne.

"So coming up against David Beckham, no matter how good he may be, isn't something that concerns me.

"The only way you can handle someone as good as David Beckham is to confront him full-on.

"You can't let him intimidate you.

"That is what I tried to show in the testimonial and he reacted a bit over the way I was trying to handle him.

"I'm not the sort to try to hurt anybody but at the same time I am happy to put my body in the way for the good of my team."

Tiatto, who for eight years was the long-haired lover of life as a beach bum and spent a thousand nights sleeping in his beat-up car waiting for dawn breakers, admits there is one aspect of Beckham's life that would freeze his blood.

He said: "I wouldn't swap his lifestyle, not for all the money going.

"I really admire him for the way he copes with living in the glare of publicity all the time.

"He's married to one of the world's most famous people, he's a great player, he can't move without being photographed.

"He also gets horrendous stick from opposition supporters.

"Of course, he earns the kind of money I don't think I'll ever see. But I could not put up with all the hassle that is involved in his life.

"I like to enjoy myself, I will indulge in life's luxuries if I can.

"But I prefer a quiet night in to putting myself into the spotlight almost every day of my life.

"Pizza and a good movie make me far more contented than allowing myself to become public property."

Tiatto, an unknown when he arrived in England but who has since represented his country at the Olympics and as a full international, may never be forced to make a choice between the two, although he has become a cult figure at Maine Road.

Developing Australia's youth

THIS year Joey striker Matthew Engele has been involved in the NSW Under-16 side in the National Talent Identification Championships, NSW Schoolboys championships, the Super Youth League Under-16 Grand Final with Blacktown City and the NSWIS in the National Youth League (NYL).

And he has already hit top form in the NYL with 3 goals in 4 games for Northern Spirit.

Engele is over the moon with his international selection.

"I'm very pleased with my selection because there were times when I wasn't sure what was going to happen," he told *SuperSoccer*.

"My next aim is to keep the goals coming and earn a place in the Joeys starting XI.

"I believe that my time with Blacktown City in the Pepsi Super Youth League helped me improve as a player whereas the NYL experience with NSWIS taught me how to play against bigger, faster, tougher opposition.

"And, representing NSW, I guess, is a reward for performing well for Blacktown City and NSWIS."

Coach, Ange Postecoglou, said he expects the New South Wales contingent to combine well and combine quickly as all are former team-mates in either the Pepsi Super Youth League, NSWIS, or various NSW State teams.

"I'm impressed with what I have seen of the youth systems right around Australia," said Postecoglou, "but the system in New South Wales is particularly impressive as it continues to identify and develop talented players through every age level."

The NSW Soccer Federation's elite development program is assisted by American Express through the NSW Soccer American Express Soccer card.

For further information on how to obtain a card and help talented young soccer players every time you spend, visit www.soccernsw.com.au or call the Federation on 9629 1800.

The New South Wales players selected to represent Australia:

Jacob Rex
Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 16
Current Club: Northern Spirit
Former Clubs/Teams: Central Coast Super Youth League (SYL), NSWIS, NSW U16
Suburb: Wamberal

Matthew Hunter
Position: Defender
Age: 16
Current Club: Northern Spirit
Former Clubs/Teams: Leeds United youth, NSW U14
Suburb: Villawood

Alex Wilkinson
Position: Defender
Age: 16
Current Club: Northern Spirit
Former Clubs/Teams: Northern Spirit SYL, NSW U16
Suburb: East Ryde

Michael Brown
Position: Midfielder
Age: 16
Current Club: Parramatta Power
Former Clubs/Teams: Macarthur SYL, NSWIS, NSW U16
Suburb: Ruse

Brett Holman
Position: Striker
Age: 16
Current Club: Parramatta Power
Former Clubs/Teams: NSWIS, NSW U16
Suburb: Croydon Park

Predrag Bojic
Position: Defender
Age: 16
Current Club: Parramatta Power
Former Clubs/Teams: NSWIS, NSW U16 (captain)
Suburb: Warilla

Rodney Madigan
Position: Defender
Age: 16
Current Club: Marconi Colts
Former Clubs/Teams: Marconi SYL, NSW U16
Suburb: Bossley Park

Steve Baveas
Position: Midfielder
Age: 16
Current Club: NSWIS/Blacktown City
Former Clubs/Teams: Blacktown City SYL, NSW U16
Suburb: Wentworthville

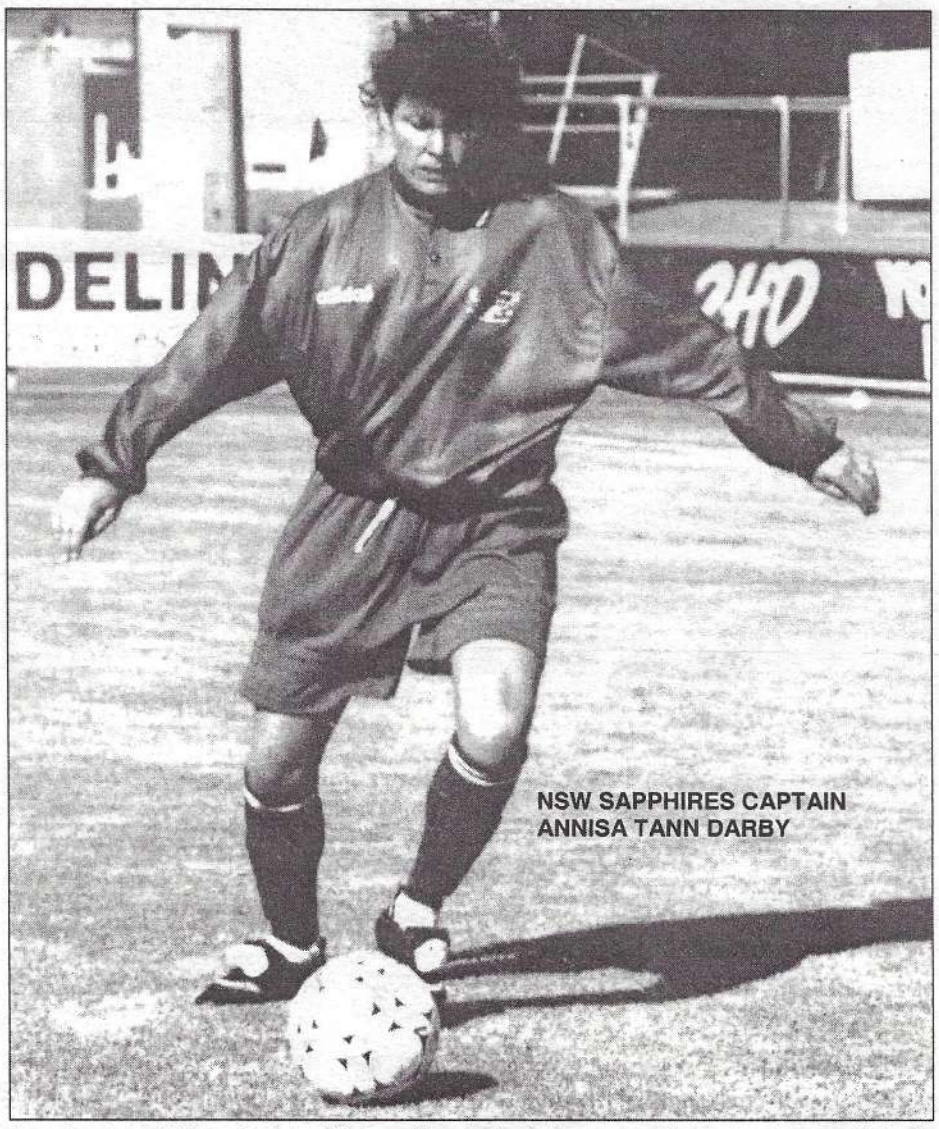
Matthew Engele
Position: Striker
Age: 16
Current Club: Northern Spirit
Former Clubs/Teams: Blacktown City SYL, NSWIS, NSW U16
Suburb: Ingleside

Jay Lucas
Position: Striker
Age: 15
Current Club: Wollongong Wolves
Former Clubs/Teams: NSW U15
Suburb: Towradgi

MacCallum suffers bad break in Sapphires loss to Queensland

By Marc Barnett

Northern NSW Pride 1
NSW Sapphires 5



NSW SAPPHIRES CAPTAIN ANNISA TANN DARBY

THE NSW Sapphires made the journey down to Canberra with the mission of returning in first place on the table by securing two victories.

The first part of that mission came against Northern NSW Pride, and the Sapphires proved that they were capable of performing the task.

The match began somewhat evenly, but the Sapphires were able to weather the physical storm that Northern NSW threw at them and came away comfortable winners in the second half.

The 21st minute of the match, saw NSW carry the ball the length of the field and take the lead 1-0.

Sapphires defender Kristine Collins played a ball to Michelle Carney, who went on a trademark "Carney Run", with Collins making a long overlapping run.

Carney then laid the ball to Collins who played it back across goal to McLaughlin to take the shot, with Collins being in the right spot at the right time to finish off the rebound in front of goals.

Northern NSW struck back just 13 minutes later, when a cross into the middle of the penalty area found the head of Katie Gill who rose above the pack to guide the ball past Cassandra Kell.

The Sapphires came out for the second half firing, just two minutes after the kick off Taryn Rockall found herself in front of goal with the ball at her feet after a defensive blunder, and the competitions leading goal scorer made no mistake from point blank range.

Northern NSW had a great opportunity to again draw level, but Julie King's header from three metres out from goal went sailing over the bar.

The NSW Sapphires were now taking control of the match and a double to striker Kelly Golebiowski put the match beyond doubt.

Golebiowski's first was a left footed drive from outside the area that remained untouched until finding the net.

That effort was then followed up with a classy finish after being one on one with Northern NSW goalkeeper Jenny Praszczalek.

NSW rounded off their performance with Michelle Carney being fouled in the box by Cheryl Salisbury, allowing Taryn Rockall to further extend her goal tally from the penalty spot.

Northern NSW had one last chance to score in the dying minutes when Lauren Colthorpe it the crossbar from a corner and the follow up shot went wide.

The Sapphires seemed as though they had acres of space through the middle of the park, with the likes of Rockall, Collins and Carney running freely all match with ample opportunity to play the ball wide to either Garriock or Klessattel, who were also not being marked tightly.

For the Sapphires, Taryn Rockall and Anissa Tann-Darby led by example, along with strong performances from Michelle Carney and Kristine Collins.

Sapphires coach Allan Bourke was pleased with the performance of his girls, commenting on the passing game through midfield.

Bourke also felt that Northern NSW played a very physical game and was pleased with the way his team responded.

NSW Sapphires 1
Queensland 3

THE only two unbeaten sides after three rounds of the competition clashed to decide who would leave the nations capital on top of the table.

Queensland had not yet conceded a goal in three games and were looking a formidable line up, while NSW, although they are reigning champions, have shown some hot and cold form.

Queensland put their stamp on the game after just three minutes.

A short corner was taken to Zoe Nolan, who put in a cross to the far post, and Jamara Maza volleyed the ball over Cassandra Kell's head into the NSW goal for a 1-0 lead.

To their credit NSW remained composed and joined Queensland on the scoresheet just eight minutes later.

NSW knocked a ball down the left wing which looked to be running long.

Collette McCallum kept chasing the ball and stoped it from running over the line, beat a player and passed a brilliant ball to Justine McLaughlin who made no mistake with the shot to get the game back on level terms.

Queensland regained the lead in the 25th minute, when April Mann was on the far post to knock in a fumble from goalkeeper Kell.

NSW then received a further blow, with 14 year old Collette McCallum copping a heavy knock, which went unnoticed by the referee.

McCallum did not move after hitting the ground.

Collette was substituted and went to hospital for x-rays, which later confirmed that she had in fact broken her collar bone, bringing her season to an end.

Further to NSW worries, Queensland extended their lead in the 30th minute, when Kristine Collins was penalised for a foul on Queensland striker Alicia Ferguson.

Queensland Captain Kim Revell made no mistake with the penalty and the score remained 1-0 at half time.

Queensland controlled the second half and made sure the game was played at their pace, just the way they liked it.

Good scoring chances were few and far between, the best of the half being Alicia Tramacchi's attempt to increase Queensland's lead when her cracking drive hit the middle of the crossbar.

The result means that Queensland remain unbeaten at the top of the ladder, while NSW now face Adelaide Sensation in the last round to determine the minor placings.

NSW Sapphires coach Alan Bourke and Queensland Sting coach Mike Mulvey agreed that the game was won and lost in the middle of the park and that Queensland were the better side on the day.

Bourke said: "we were outplayed today, but we can still finish second and will have to do our homework if we play Queensland again".

The NSW Sapphires must now compose as a team and travel to Adelaide in two weeks time to win back 2nd place and book a home semi final on the 9th of December, or face the possibility of travelling to Adelaide two weeks in a row.

Queensland are now instilled as the firm favourites to take out the competition, followed by NSW who can be amazingly talented on their day, but inconsistency seems to be their major concern.

Japan and South Korea to cost Confederations Cup

THE Confederations Cup will be jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea from May 30 to June 10 next year in a test run for the 2002 World Cup, said football's world governing body FIFA.

Visiting FIFA chairman Sepp Blatter told reporters in Japan that FIFA had resolved a row with the Japan Football Association, which had initially planned to host its own tournament around the same time.

World and European champions France and Brazil will be the star attractions for the tournament, which brings together the respective champions of FIFA's regional confederations.

Also playing will be Canada, Cameroon, Australia, Mexico and the two joint hosts.

Japan had initially rejected FIFA's plan for a tournament that will test the logistics of holding a World Cup in two countries for the first time.

The JFA has yet to confirm that it has agreed to the joint tournament.

But the 2001 schedule for the local J-League includes a space for the Confederations Cup to take place.

Wehrman trialing in Belgium

SOCCEROOS midfielder Kasey Wehrman is in Belgium for trials with a first division club.

Wehrman, who was a second half substitute in the Socceroos' historic 2-0 victory over Scotland in Glasgow, was given permission from national soccer league club Perth Glory to spend a week trialing with K.Lierse Sportkring.

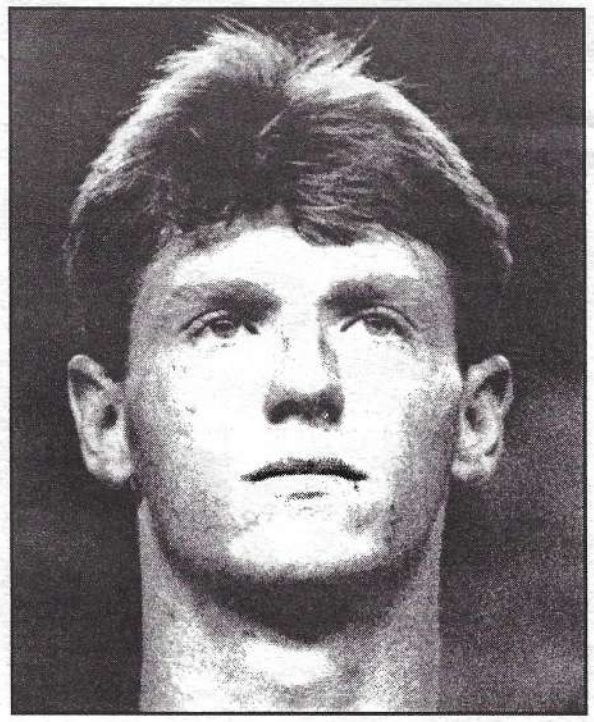
The 23-year-old has already agreed to a series of trials with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven in early December.

Glory general manager Roger Lefort said Wehrman was expected home in time to play against Northern Spirit next weekend.

Meanwhile, the Glory have signed exciting 17-year-old midfielder Antonio Naglieri to a three year deal, amid interest from English first division side Blackburn Rovers.

Naglieri joins 16-year-old sensation Anthony Danze, who was signed before the start of the NSL season, at the club.

Socceroo defender returns for surgery



RANGERS Socceroo defender Craig Moore (pictured above) will be sidelined until at least Christmas due to his long-term knee injury, for which he will return to Australia for treatment.

Rangers have struggled in the Scottish Premier League without Moore at the centre of its defence, and the club and its fans have been sweating on his return.

But Socceroo coach Frank Farina shed some light on the matter by revealing Moore intended to return to Australia in the near future for treatment.

"I'm not sure if he needs surgery but he will be going back home for a while," Farina said of the red headed Melburnian, who has been playing in Britain for eight years.

Blackburn's Greek Aussie

RECENTLY on the score sheet for English First Division club Blackburn Rovers was unheralded Aussie Michael Panopoulos.

The Aussie was signed from Greek First Division side Aris Salonica.

He can play on both flanks and has been a vital member of Blackburn's squad under new manager Graeme Souness.

A SuperSoccer tribute to Farina's Braveheart

FRANK FARINA has become the first coach of a senior Australian side to record a victory over Scotland, when the Socceroos beat the home side 2-0 in Glasgow last Wednesday night.

It was quite possibly Australia's greatest ever international result, turning the screws on a home side which was ranked sixty places higher than them in the FIFA rankings.

The Australians dominated the match, with skipper Paul Okon dictating the play from the midfield, Brett Emerton and Stan Lazaridis cutting up the Scottish defence from the right and left respectively, and the Socceroos solid in defence, with Kevin Muscat, Shaun Murphy and Tony Popovic largely untroubled through the game.

Even criticism directed at coach Frank Farina's 'flat back four' was ignored in the euphoria following the victory—as was the suggestion that Lazaridis and Tiatto couldn't play together in the same team.

Tiatto continually moved inside to create the space that Lazaridis needed to taunt the immobile Scots.

"Everyone worked very hard out there for that victory today, and overall it was a solid team performance across the park," Farina said after the match.

"I felt we got on top of the game very early, and then we just maintained that edge, we were playing a simple passing game, a lot of one-two touch football.

"It was just one of those nights really, the two goals to Emo and Zdrila were very good goals, and we really could have had more.

"Emo had a great game and deservedly got the Man of the Match award from Sky Sports, and he seems to be the talk of everyone right at the moment.

"I felt our domination across the middle of the park laid the platform for the victory, with Paul Okon and Josip Skoko dictating the play throughout the game.

"Let's not forget that this was Okon's first game at this level for over two months, and he and Skoko centrally were exceptional.

"But we were also very solid at the back, you couldn't fault the backline of Muscat, Murphy, Popovic and Lazaridis, and Mark Schwarzer had his place in this victory as well.

"I thought Schwarzer made a great save in the late stages of the first half - if that had gone in, it would have been 1-1 at half time and that would have been a great let down considering the way we played in the first half, so that save played a very important part in the game.

"Considering the difficulties we had in the lead-up to this game, with injuries and just two training sessions, to get this result is very satisfying for both the coaching staff, and each and every one of the players.

"We were missing several players, but everyone, including each of the substitutes who came on to provide fresh legs and keep the momentum going, played the role that was expected of them tonight, which leaves me with a very pleasant head-ache."

AUSSIE SKIPPER PAUL OKON JINKS PAST SCOTLAND'S BARRY FERGUSON

A HIGHLY polished Australia stunned host Scotland with an emphatic 2-0 win in their international soccer friendly at Hampden Park in Glasgow.

Without their big three of Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, the Socceroos more than lived up to their hopes of earning greater international respect.

Brett Emerton opened the scoring with a fine strike from close range in the 12th minute, while David Zdrilic added the second on 66 minutes.

Emerton's goal was created by Socceroos skipper Paul Okon, who played a fine game in his first match back after a 10 week break from club football with Middlesbrough due to injury.

Stan Lazaridis also turned in a superb effort on the left, while Okon's Middlesbrough team-mate Mark Schwarzer was faultless in goal.

The late withdrawal of Leeds star Viduka not only robbed Australia of one of the hottest strikers in the English Premier League, but thwarted any plans Celtic fans had of giving him a heated reception after he left the club last summer.

Scotland, though missing a handful of players from the side which has moved to the top of a World Cup qualifying group also including Croatia and Belgium, would have started favourites with Viduka on the bench or on the field.

But still the Aussies stunned them with a brilliant opening half hour.

They converted their dominance to a lead when Okon threaded a superb 30 metre pass to Emerton, and the Feyenoord striker jinked inside Blackburn's Christian Dailly inside the area before slotting his shot under the right arm of a falling Jonathan Gould.

The under-performing Scotland didn't have a shot until the 27th minute, in answer to four for Australia, and even then Colin Cameron's effort from in front after a corner went harmlessly wide.

The Socceroos absorbed a 10-minute period of heavy pressure late in the half.

Lazaridis then made a strong run down the left to feed Zdrilic close to goal three minutes before the break, but Zdrilic sent a poor attempt with his left foot wide.

Scotland coach Craig Brown sent on Leicester City's defensive linchpin Matt Elliott for fullback David Weir at halftime, while adding more striking power with Neil McCann replacing midfielder Cameron.

But after an hour only two cheers had rung out from the 30,985-strong crowd -- one for the halftime score which came through another friendly in from Italy, showing England 1-0 down, the other for the arrival in the 58th minute of former captain Colin Hendry.

Scotland missed a fair chance to equalise four minutes later, when Hutchison couldn't get enough on a half-volley to trouble Schwarzer, and the Aussies made them pay with their controversial second.

Kevin Muscat was the creator, with a beautiful cross from the right into the box, where an unmarked Zdrilic headed past a wrong-footed Gould, but boos rang out for an apparent offside by Popovic, who was also in the penalty area.

SCOTLAND 0
AUSTRALIA 2 (Brett Emerton 12', David Zdrilic 66')
Venue: Hampden Park, Glasgow
Attendance: 30,985
AUSTRALIA: M Schwarzer; K Muscat, S Murphy, T Popovic, S Lazaridis, B Emerton, J Skoko (K Wehrman 75'), P Okon [c], D Tiatto (J Burns 67'), D Zdrilic (C Zane 89'), P Agostino (M Sterjovski 46'). Coach: Frank Farina
SCOTLAND: J Gould; D Weir (M Elliott 46'), T Boyd [c], B O'Neill (C Hendry 58'), C Dailly, C Burley (P Dickov 63'), B Ferguson, C Cameron (N McCann 46'), D Matteo, D Hutchison, B Dodds. Manager: Craig Brown

The boy is a bit special

DEFENCE has been Brett Emerton's forte for Holland's Feyenoord this season but it was up front where he shone in his return for the Socceroos.

Emerton scored a delightful goal to give Australia the lead after 12 minutes in its friendly against Scotland and later walked off Hampden Park after the 2-0 win to accept man-of-the-match honours.

While Emerton has graduated to the Rotterdam club's first team since the Olympics, he has been played mainly in the unfamiliar role of right back.

He was pleased to be up front for Australia.

"It was a good game all round - not only for myself but for the entire team," Emerton said.

"I've been playing a more defensive role at Feyenoord, which I'm not really used to.

"It was really enjoyable tonight to get out there and be able to run at players and get forward."

Emerton, who was signed by Feyenoord along with fellow Socceroo Stephen Laybutt, said he had no doubts he had chosen the right path into Europe.

"I've been there a few months now and I'm starting to play regularly in the first team, so I can't be happier," he said.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina put Britain on notice over the potential of Emerton after his performance against Scotland.

"Brett's going to be something quite special, I believe. He's got all the attributes to make it in the Premier League," Farina said.

AND WHAT THE SCOTS WROTE .....

Scotland, they couldn't defend a sandcastle

A SuperSoccer tribute to Farina's Bravehearts

By Brian Scott
in Glasgow

PITY they don't transport anybody to the antipodes these days because Scotland, in their entirety, deserved to be shipped in that direction after this abject performance against Australia at Hampden.

Never mind that the Aussies have become more worldly and talented since their last visit to the national stadium, four-and-a-half years ago.

Craig Brown's side, this time, were awful.

They fell behind to an early goal by Feyenoord's Brett Emerton and long before conceding a second, to David Zdrilic after the interval, had lost their way completely in this friendly.

What was it manager Brown said the previous day?

That he wanted his side to turn the new Hampden into a fortress?

On this showing, they couldn't have defended a sandcastle and the jeers at the end were wholly justified.

Scotland's supporters doubtless would have welcomed the opportunity to see the injured Mark Viduka - in the form of his life of late - in the opposition's colours, although it seemed fair to assume that their players were happy enough about not having to face him.

The former Celtic striker could have posed a few problems for a back division comprising Brian O'Neil, Christian Dailly and David Weir, who were obliged to look for support from Tom Boyd and the new cap, Dominic Matteo, who was finally rejecting the white shirt of England, whom he had represented at youth level, in favour of the dark blue one of the country of his birth.

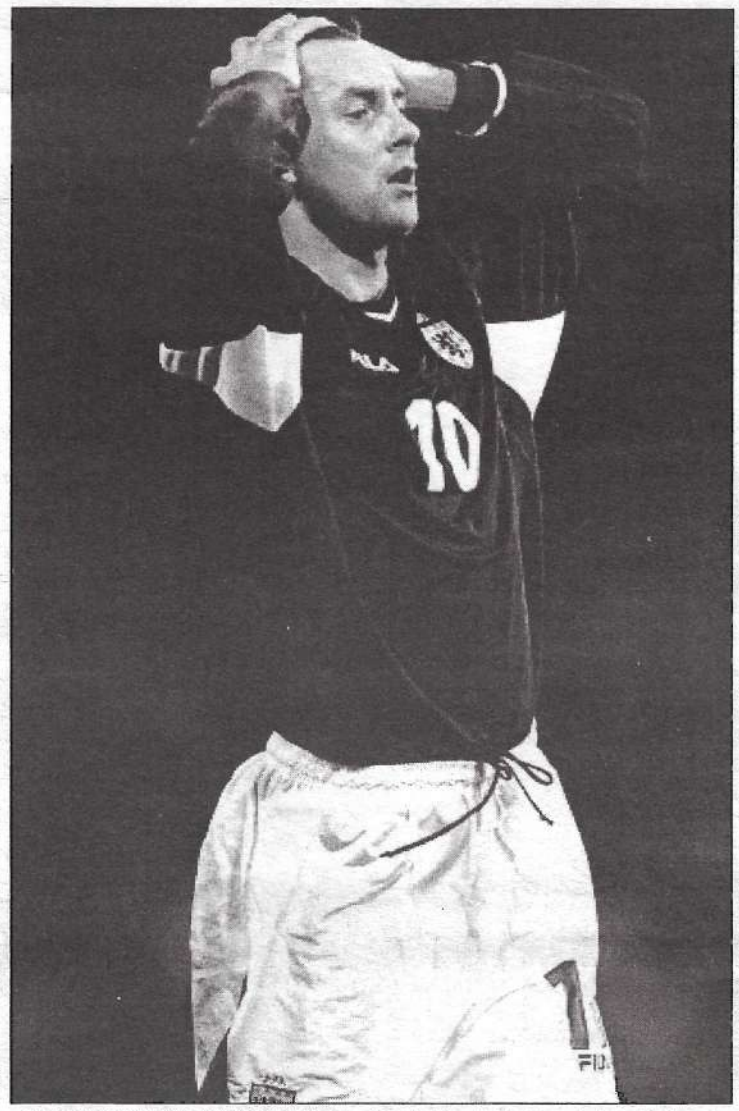
Yet, even in the absence of the powerful Leeds player, the Aussies weren't long in demonstrating that they had the capability of embarrassing the home side, Emerton putting them ahead after just 12 minutes.

Paul Okon, the visiting captain, opened up the Scottish defence with a pass from the midfield and, with Dailly making only a tentative attempt to block him, man-of-the-match Emerton ran on to beat Jonathan Gould with a low shot.

Poor Gould would have wanted a more auspicious start to what was only his second international but, before Scotland could show any kind of response, the Celtic goalkeeper found himself under pressure from a corner kick.

Stan Lazaridis flighted it into the heart of the penalty area where Paul Agostino, by no means the biggest man in the crowd which had formed there, contrived to get in a header which arced over the bar.

Scotland's attacks by that juncture amounted to little more than a pass from Don Hutchison which the inrushing Craig Burley looked ready to collect in stride until Tony Popovic made a saving tackle.



THE LOOK THAT SAYS IT ALL: Scotland's Don Hutchison holds his head in anguish

The crowd were entitled to expect much more of them when, in fact, what they saw was the Aussies threaten again, this time with a free kick from out near the touchline by Birmingham City's Lazaridis.

Gould, under pressure for his place from Robert Douglas at Celtic and for his country, ran out a few yards, evidently expecting the chance to pick the ball out of the air.

So imagine his consternation when it swirled over his head and crashed back off the crossbar.

Lazaridis continued to be a menace at set pieces as the first half unfolded in deeply disappointing fashion for the Scots.

They just had to impose themselves on the midfield. Failure to do so was to invite the Aussies forward again and again.

What chance Colin Cameron turning their luck with a 35th-minute corner?

He fired it at just the right height for his former Hearts colleague, Weir, to connect with but the header dropped past.

Australia seemed to read this as a signal for them to thrust forward on another of their forays and, with Dailly and O'Neil both looking hesitant, Agostino found himself free to send in a shot which Gould contrived to smother.

The crowd, remarkably, managed to contain their frustration and might have been rewarded with a goal, albeit against the run of play, after Hutchison had forced a corner kick in the 39th minute.

Cameron played the ball deep into the Aussies' area, for Hutchison to bring it down and try a shot which, by some remarkable means, broke off Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and flew for a second corner.

Scotland, for the greater part of that opening period, looked even to be without the spirit for which they are noted.

Thus, they could only improve when they resumed with Matt Elliott and Neil McCann on in place of Weir and Cameron respectively.

But would they?

The question still was hanging over them when Billy Dodds, marginalised from so much of what had gone before through no obvious fault of his own, initiated a move on the right flank.

Boyd, the Scots' captain, who had spent most of his time back-pedalling, pressed forward after taking a pass from his Old Firm rival and, despite stumbling, was able to set up Burley, whose shot curled well wide.

Hendry's appearance in the 57th minute, as a replacement for O'Neil, had the potential to lift not only his team-mates but also the fans, some 30,000 of them, who had been asked to tolerate so much.

Out of condition, he may be, although there seemed to be nothing wrong with his lungs as he urged Scotland to play more of the match in the Aussies' half and, hopefully, cancel out Emerton's goal.

But, sad to say, Hendry looked as deficient as any Scot near him when Australia increased their lead, with Zdrilic's header from what appeared at first to be a harmless enough cross by Kevin Muscat.

Sixty-five minutes had elapsed by then, with Dodds having just been thwarted by a Josip Skoko's splendid tackle, which was so well timed that the Rangers striker had no realistic hope of claiming a penalty kick.

There was no easy way back for them although, with Paul Dickov on in place of Burley, there seemed just the chance that the little Manchester City player could add impetus to the Scottish attack.

Hutchison, it must be said, wasn't that far away with a shot which Australian goalkeeper, Schwarzer, was happy to see skid wide but, overall, the Scots still looked patently short of cohesion from the midfield forward as Hampden grew increasingly restless.

The crowd then resorted to cheering such occurrences as a crunching tackle by Elliott on substitute Jacob Burns, near the touchline and in line with the penalty box.

There was nothing happening at the far end of the field to catch their fancy.

Barry Ferguson did try to get something going but, when he looked up in the hope of spying an opening through which he might thread the ball, he saw so many green-and-yellow jerseys on the retreat to deny him an option.

Australia, finally, were well worth the win, their first in three (four–Ed.) meetings with the Scots.

But how bad were Scotland?

As bad as they've ever been under Brown's stewardship.

Farina's European plan to continue

By Jon West

AUSTRALIA coach Frank Farina does not expect to win every club-versus-country battle with the likes of David O'Leary.

But he fully expects to choose from a strong squad as his team get ready for their World Cup qualifying campaign.

Farina knows he now has a squad good enough to reach the finals.

To get there, the Aussies must beat rivals New Zealand and a host of smaller nations to win the Oceania group, and then overcome the fifth-placed South American team in a play-off.

The campaign begins in April and, because of the thousands of miles of travelling involved, Farina expects many managers to try to prevent their stars from making the trips.

Of the 21-man squad chosen for the Scotland match all but two were based in Europe.

The prelude to the Scotland match saw Leeds striker Mark Viduka travel to Glasgow despite the concerns of O'Leary, his club manager, over an ankle injury.

O'Leary had ruled him out four days previously but it was not until the day of the match that Viduka and the Australian medical team decided he would not play after all.

Farina said: "Qualifying for the World Cup is the most important thing for Australian football at this stage.

"It will be difficult for me to get all my players.

"I know I won't get all of them.

"The depth of the squad is what I'm looking to improve.

"The players I will pick in April will be the ones I'm confident with."

That means Viduka and Elland Road team-mate Harry Kewell, who is expected to return from an Achilles injury by Christmas, are guaranteed to get the call.

Kewell has already been embroiled in a club-v-country row, which ended with the Australians enforcing FIFA's five-day rule and the forward missing a match against Bradford, in a tit-for-tat retaliation for trying to stop him joining the squad for two friendlies against Brazil.

Farina lamented: "We've got first call but we still get grief every time we try to call them up."

Farina's starting line-up against Scotland included three Premiership players in Mark Schwarzer and Paul Okon of Middlesbrough and Manchester City's Danny Tiatto, three from the First Division, two who play in the German Bundesliga plus individuals who play in Japan, Belgium and Holland.

The latter was man-of-the-match Brett Emerton of Feyenoord, who scored the opening goal and afterwards declared he would like to play for Manchester United.

And it was not just Viduka and Kewell who were missing.

Mark Bosnich of Manchester United, Coventry striker John Aloisi and Rangers defensive duo Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar were all out injured.

Farina, who played in Europe himself and was once voted the best foreign player in Belgium, has managed to appease club bosses to some extent by arranging friendlies in Europe rather than Down Under.

He said: "We have always said the more players who are playing in Europe at the top level the better.

"We have got over 130 playing in Europe now.

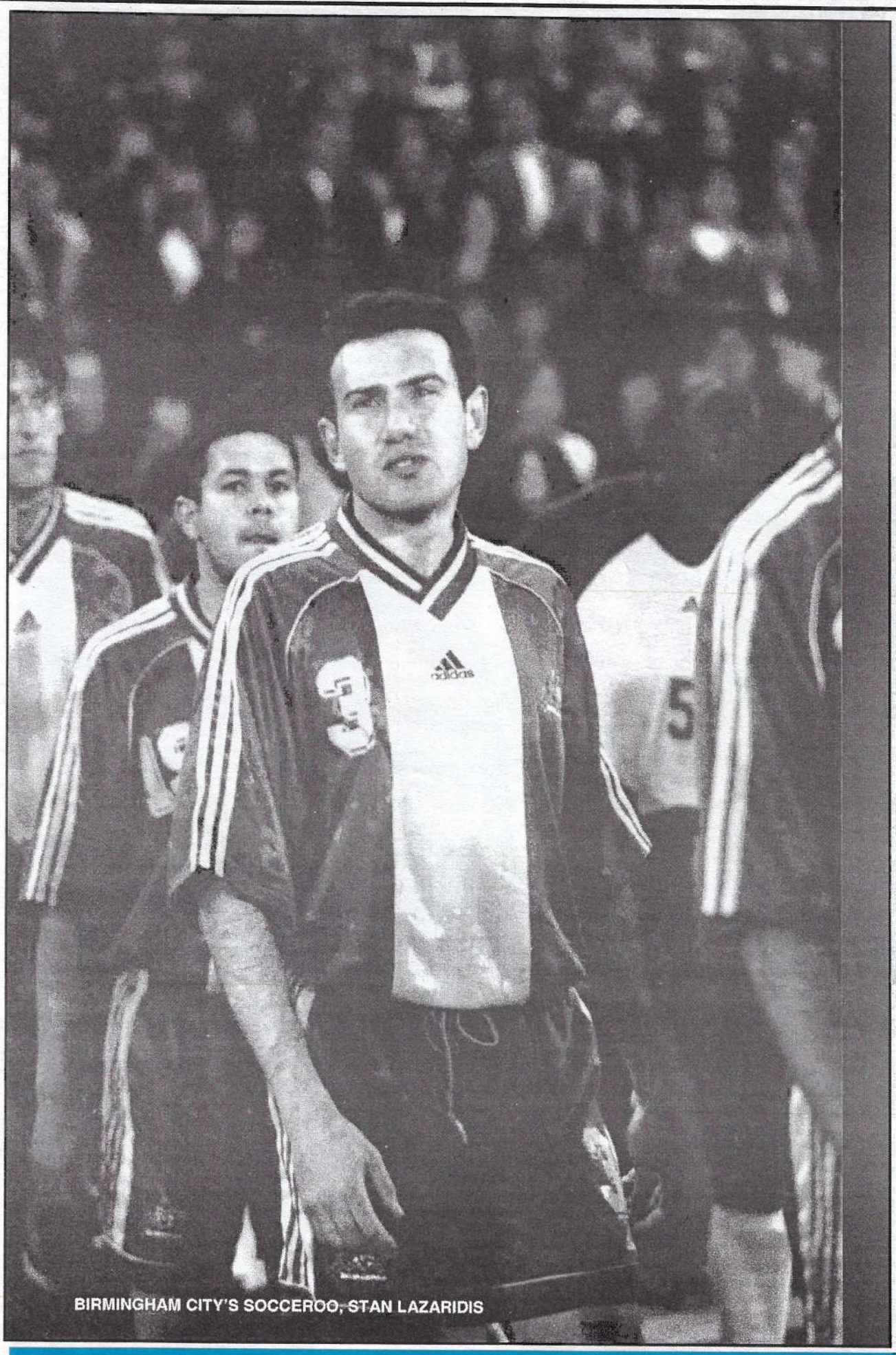
"I want as many internationals in Europe as possible because we have got our players here. These are important fixtures for us."

The Australians had been offered a late May date for an England friendly but that clashed with another international tournament, the Confederations Cup.

Australia reached the final of that competition when they last took part, in Africa in 1997.

They ended up getting walloped 6-0 by Brazil but Farina is sure to want to show the world how far the Socceroos have progressed since then by naming a full-strength squad.

And that means the club-v-country battles are sure to flare up once more.



BIRMINGHAM CITY'S SOCCEROO, STAN LAZARIDIS

HAPPY TO GIVE THE BRITS STICK

MARK Viduka did not get to play on his return to Scotland but came away a happy man.

While being ruled out of the Australian side hours before its clash, he left the city where he had starred with Celtic encouraged by the effect the win will have for the Socceroos.

"Coming here to play at Hampden Park and beating the Scots on their home turf was huge for us. We've never done it before," Viduka said.

"The way we played the ball around was fantastic. We dominated the game, especially in the midfield with Paul Okon and Josip Skoko.

"I was disappointed not to play. I had two years here so I really wanted to play. It was a close thing but in the end there was a decision not to risk it."

Another prominent England-based Aussie, Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, was justifiably proud of his first clean sheet of the season after resuming from a broken thumb in Boro's loss to Manchester United.

Schwarzer said Scotland could have offered greater resistance but he was looking forward to bragging to his Middlesbrough team mates.

"I was very disappointed with the way they played because I thought they'd give us a lot tougher game," he said.

"But we played exceptionally well. The win was down to ourselves. We could have lowered ourselves to the same level they were at, and the game could have been a dull affair.

"It's also great for us guys who are in Great Britain, because we can give out a lot of stick now for the next couple of months."

SCOTLAND RATE LOSS AN "EMBARRASSMENT"

By ANDREW HUNTER and ROGER HANNAH

RECRIMINATIONS began immediately in Scotland following the Socceroos' emphatic 2-0 victory at Hampden Park.

Without their big three of Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, the Socceroos, ranked 74th in the world, secured their first win over the 20th-ranked Scots.

And it was one that the 30,985 home supporters, who had arrived looking for a continuation of Scotland's successful run this year, found difficult to accept.

Under the headline "Scotland gets bushwacked", the *Glasgow Herald* labelled the result an "embarrassment".

"Australia always looked the better team, always were the better team, and their goals proved that," the paper said.

"They looked more up for the game than Scotland did. They looked better prepared than Scotland did. And, in the end, they proved that beyond question."

Scotland manager Craig Brown also admitted as much, conceding his outfit, which is currently on top of its World Cup qualifying group, was outclassed.

"We played badly and deserved to lose," he said.

"It's very disappointing but the Australians had a greater appetite than us."

Brown has guided Scotland to top spot through three games in their World Cup qualifying group, which included holding 1998 semi-finalists Croatia to a 1-1 away draw last month.

His side was missing six players from its regular XI, but Brown said the Socceroos earned full dues for the attacking style of their 2-0 win.

"We've got to give a lot of credit to the Australians," he said.

"They came in as underdogs and made it like a cup tie and deservedly won the match."

Brown rightfully said his side had played poorly, rating their effort one of the worst during his reign as coach, but said any nation which doubted the merits of the Socceroos would do so at their own peril.

"I know soccer is not the main sport in Australia, but sport is important in Australia, much more so than in the UK and you can see that in their football team.

"We have lost a few bad ones but we don't concede goals as a rule.

"But as a coach I was embarrassed by the second goal.

"Either a goal is scored by excellent forward play or from carelessness, and I think both Australian goals were caused by error."

Substitute Colin Hendry was the man at fault for the second goal after losing his man in the box when Wolves defender Kevin Muscat had floated in a routine-looking cross from the right.

Brown dropped Hendry because he is not getting first-team football at Coventry and has made it clear to his former skipper that he will not be picked to start again unless he is playing regularly.

Aberdeen have made a move for the 34-year-old but his wage demands already look to have scuppered any deal.

But Brown said: "It would certainly be good to get Colin back in action at the top level.

"You could see the crowd's reaction - the presence of Colin on the pitch is important for Scotland."

Frank Farina's side poured all over Scotland and sealed their win when Viduka's late replacement, German-based striker David Zdrilic, headed home in 65 minutes.

Farina admitted: "Scotland let their guard drop a little compared to what they have been like in the qualifiers.

"But they can't be doing too much wrong as they are top of their group."

Captain Tom Boyd promised the fans there would be no repeat of last night's miserable display when the competitive action restarts next spring.

"We let Australia control the tempo and dominate,'" said Boyd.

"We did not get a real grip at any stage of the game.

'The biggest consolation is that there was nothing at stake.

"The fans should just dismiss this game completely and they can be reassured that, come the Belgium game, it will be totally different."

AFTER MATCH SHORTS

CRAIG BROWN ON PICKING HIS SECOND STRING KEEPER

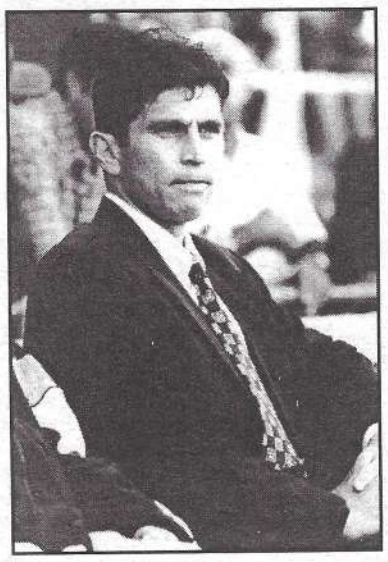
"I thought Viduka would play having seen him at the weekend," said Scotland manager Craig Brown.

"It crossed my mind that Gould's extensive knowledge of Viduka's weaponry from a full season working with him as key first-team members of Celtic's squad might come in handy if he did play.

"Neil hurt his hand - he has basically staved his right thumb - in training and, to be honest, he could have played had this been a qualifier, but Spurs have a big game against Liverpool at the weekend.

"Gould was always first in line - it's only his second cap, but he has been a valuable member of the group for the last couple of years and has an excellent attitude, which you also see at Celtic."

FARINA ON CLUB v COUNTRY



"A lot of managers have to realise that, they're going out and buying the best players in the world, and whether they be Australians or anyone else ... they'll want to play for their country," he said.

"So when it comes time to playing for their country, the managers can't go jumping up and down too much because they've known all along who they've got into bed with."

NO MORE FRIENDLIES

Scotland coach Craig Brown pulled the plug on World Cup warm-up friendlies following the dismal Hampden Park defeat by Australia on Wednesday.

Brown was shocked by his side's lack of application against a lively Socceroos side that clearly showed more desire and ran out comfortable 2-0 winners.

Now he has concluded that his players have trouble motivating themselves for anything other than the big matches and has therefore scrapped plans for more non-competitive games.

Scotland have turned down a lucrative tournament in India plus an offer from Wales to play in Cardiff before Belgium visit the national stadium in March.

That crucial World Cup qualifier is sure to have a big bearing on the destiny of Group 6 as both sides are likely to begin level on points at the top of the group.

Now the Scots will make do with a squad gathering in February to prepare for the visit of Robert Waseige's Belgium team.

Brown said: "We have got to up the level of enthusiasm and effort. It's a subconscious thing for a lot of the guys because they are playing in Europe and the Champions League and this was billed as a friendly.

"It's not a deliberate thing but the incentive is not there when it's not for points. They are only human."

SCOTLAND CLIMB FIFA's RANKINGS

Scotland's successful double-header in San Marino and Croatia last month has elevated Craig Brown's team back into the world's top 20.

The latest FIFA rankings showed the Scots had risen five places to 20th after taking four points from the two World Cup qualifying ties.

BROWN ON WHY HE DIDN'T PLAY KENNY MILLER

Scotland boss Craig Brown tried to defend the players who flopped so badly against Australia in midweek but admitted he's praying Rangers Kenny Miller continues to hit the net in the next four months.

He said: "It was disappointing I couldn't use Miller against Australia but I would pick him for the Belgium game if he is still as hot as he is at present.

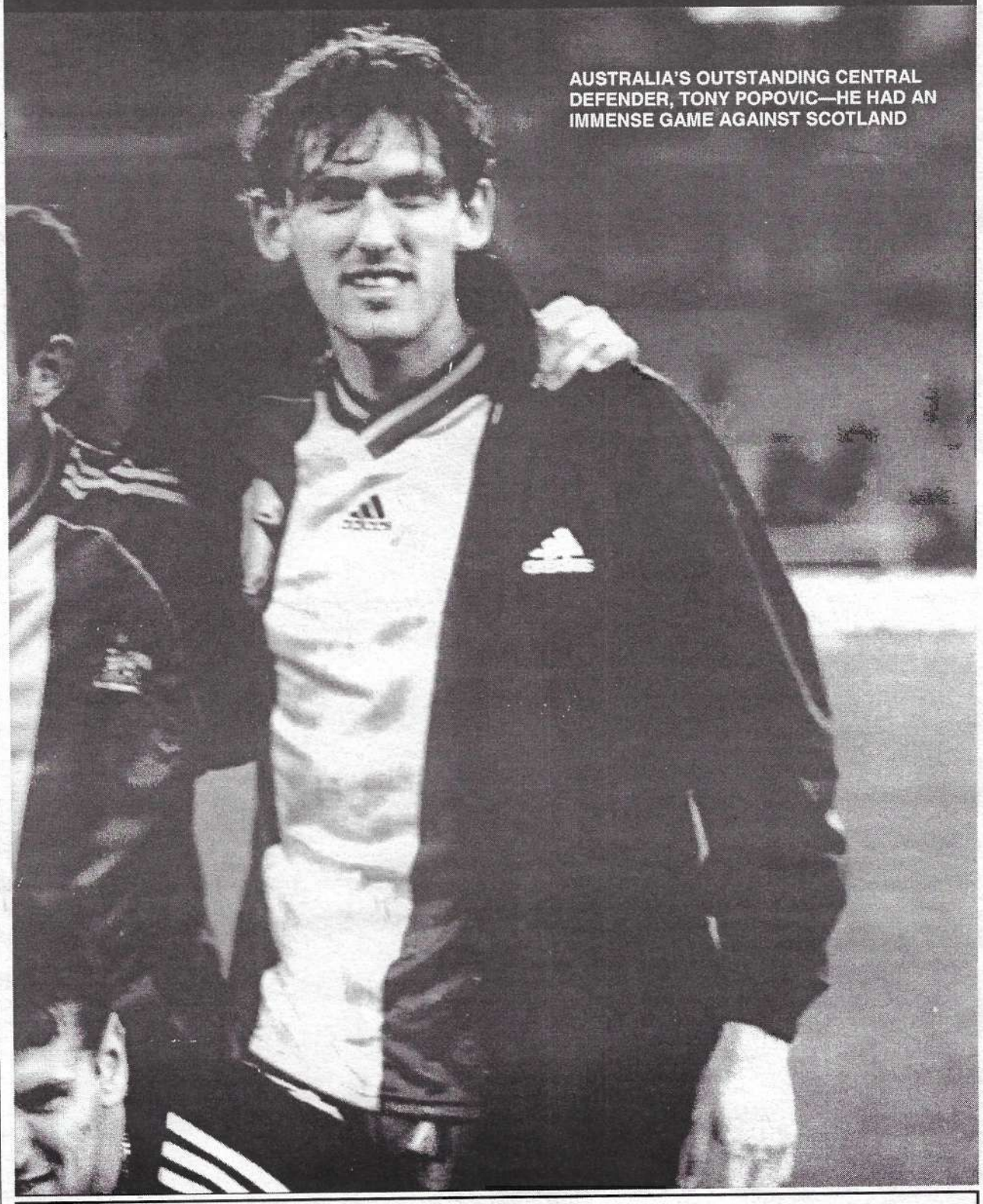
"It is not so risky to throw a forward in for a big match.

"It's different for a defender because he is more dependent on working as a unit and takes time to get to know his partners.

"But you can take a chance with a striker and if Miller keeps playing as he is at the moment, I think we will have an exceptional forward on our hands."

A SuperSoccer tribute to

Farina's Bravehearts



AUSTRALIA'S OUTSTANDING CENTRAL DEFENDER, TONY POPOVIC—HE HAD AN IMMENSE GAME AGAINST SCOTLAND

AUSTRALIA v SCOTLAND: The History

FIENDLY INTERNATIONAL
November 15, 2000. Scotland O Australia 2 (Brett Emerton 12', David Zdrilic 66')
Venue: Hampden Park, Glasgow. Attendance: 30,985
AUSTRALIA: M Schwarzer; K Muscat, S Murphy, T Popovic, S Lazaridis, B Emerton, J Skoko (K Wehrman 75'), P Okon [c], D Tiatto (J Burns 67'), D Zdrilic (C Zane 89'), P Agostino (M Sterjovski 46'). Coach: Frank Farina
SCOTLAND: J Gould; D Weir (M Elliott 46'), T Boyd [c], B O'Neill (C Hendry 58'), C Dailly, C Burley (P Dickov 63'), B Ferguson, C Cameron (N McCann 46'), D Matteo, D Hutchison, B Dodds. Manager: Craig Brown

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL
March 27, 1996. Scotland 1 Australia 0 (Hampden Park, Glasgow). Att: 20,608. Scorer: McCoist (53)
SCOTLAND: Leighton, Burley, Boyd, O'Neil, Hendry, McKinlay, Spencer, McStay, McCoist, McAllister, Collins. Subs: Nevin, Coach: Craig Brown.
AUSTRALIA: Bosnich, T. Vidmar, Popovic, Van Blerk, Slater, Horvat, Arnold, A.Vidmar, Corica, Veart (Tiatto 69), Tobin. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

WORLD CUP ELIMINATOR
Dec 4, 1985. Australia 0 Scotland 0 (Melbourne). Att: 29,500
AUSTRALIA: Greedy, Yankos, Davidson, Ratcliffe, Dunn (Farina), Jennings, Patikas, Crino (Odzakov), Murphy, Mitchell, Kosmina
SCOTLAND: Leighton; Gough, Malpas, Souness, McLeish, Miller W, Speedie (Sharp), McStay, McAvennie, Aitken R, Cooper.

Nov 20, 1985. Scotland 2 Australia 0 (Hampden Park, Glasgow) Att: 61,920
SCOTLAND: Leighton; Nicol, Malpas, Souness, McLeish, Miller W, Dalglish (Sharp 72), Strachan, McAvennie, Aitken R, Cooper.
AUSTRALIA: Greedy, Yankos, Davidson, Ratcliffe, S O'Connor (Dunn), Jennings, Watson (Patikas), Murphy, Crino, Kosmina (C), Mitchell.

FRIENDLY B INTERNATIONALS*
May 28, 1967. Australia 0 Scotland 1. (Sydney) Att: 34,750
AUSTRALIA: Fuzes, Nuttall, Marnoch, Watkiss, Cook, Warren, Hughes, Westwater, Giles (Giacometti), Baartz, Blue.
May 31, 1967. Australia 1 Scotland 2. (Adelaide) Att: 12,500. Australian Scorer: Ray Baartz
AUSTRALIA: Rorke, Shepherd, Marnoch, Cook, van Blerk, Hughes, Watkiss, Westwater, Giacometti, Baartz, McMeechan (Blue).
June 3, 1967. Australia 0 Scotland 2. (Melbourne) Att: 22,000
AUSTRALIA: Fuzes (Rorke), Shepherd, Marnoch, Rice, van Blerk, Hughes, Watkiss, Westwater, Abonyi, Warren, Morrow (Giacometti).

* NOTE: Although most Australian records show these 1967 matches as full internationals they were only B games. The matches are not recorded in SFA or FIFA records and the Scottish viewpoint is that this was basically a second division team on an end of season tour of the Far East and as such has no official status.

SuperSoccer speaks to

Lino Fiorese: Belconnen Blue Devils

By Bruce Campbell

Lion Fiorese in his own playing days with Canberra City. Now he is committing his future to making Belconnen a force in the NSW Premier League.

LINO Fiorese, coach of Canberra's entry into the NSW Premier League, considers himself a lucky man; lucky, that is, because he is with a club like the Belconnen Blue Devils.

This season he is masterminding the offshoot of Belconnen United in the pilot summer league.

But he knows that Canberra is a city which produces so many good coaches—with no where for them to coach.

Chris Tanzey, Mike Milovanovic, Ian Heywood, Stevie Bryant, Oscar Langone and Ian Murray are names which come to mind and whenever there is a new job on the scene, and they are few and far between, it is the same handful of names which come up.

Little surprise considering that even the coach of the ACT State team, the Rockets, doesn't get paid.

Fiorese, however, is at a club which oozes stability.

In an era when the city's NSL club, the Cosmos, is under such threat there is the perennial argument that Belconnen should step in and fill the boots, after all they are stake holders already.

Instead, they have gone about their business in a sensible manner, each year just adding a little bit to the master plan which might eventually see them as a contender for an NSL berth—but one with such solid foundations that it would last.

For his part Fiorese won't be drawn into that sort of discussion, insisting that it is a matter for the club's board of directors.

He came to Belconnen as player/coach in 1995 as a seasoned campaigner who was in the-then Canberra Arrows youth set-up but this time luck wasn't with him.

The demise of the Arrows left a void in the capital but, other than a short spell with Granville, Fiorese was content to ply his trade with a string of top local clubs in either the NSW Super league or the ACT Premier League.

Finally he called it a day as a player and concentrated solely on making Belconnen the power house in ACT soccer.

Even then it was a planned progression, the club's directors bringing him in to do just that whenever he felt ready.

Again he says he was lucky.

"I stopped playing at the right time," he says.

"But if I had been at another club maybe it would have been a different story.

"If we didn't have the playing resources that Belconnen have then I might have had to keep playing.

"But I made the right decision here and it has allowed a player like Jaime Mauro to come through.

"He wouldn't have got his chance otherwise."

Mauro is one of the players doing so well in the opening rounds of the NSW Premier League.

Other fine talent that attracts the coach's attention include Geoff Howarth and Matt Cachia.

"Howarth has had a major role in all our three games so far," he says.

"He was great against Blacktown, he really had them thinking about just how to contain him.

"Matt Cachia is another big talent.

"He is a defender who came to us from Monaro and although he is only small he just marks his player out of the game.

"When he gets more experience he will mark them even tighter."

Fiorese has had to rely on others for the side he put together this season and he acknowledges that fact.

In particular he is aware of the job that ACT State coach Ian Heywood has done with many of his players.

"They have all played big games under Ian," he says.

"The boys have played J League teams from Japan and other State games so they know each other quite well."

Despite that the Belconnen side is still short of two to three games before Fiorese thinks they will have gelled together.

"It will take another couple of games," he agrees.

"We have also to get the full use out of George Cattanach and Leo Langone.

"They have both been injured so far and I suppose that shows the depth of squad that we have here that we can cover for these players."

Belconnen are still rated the dark horse of the competition, despite losing their first match in Round 3 against Blacktown City.

"I'd never like to say that we will make the Top 4," cautions Fiorese. "We set our target on being competitive and maybe aim for a mid-table place. To be honest we won't be concerned if we finish a couple of points off that as long as we were competitive.

"I don't want to over exceed our expectations but we will reassess things as the season progresses.

"We were pretty competitive against Blacktown and at the end of the game I was disappointed that we didn't get more out of it.

"They are a good side but I felt we matched them.

"Maybe some of our players don't have that experience of playing games like that regularly and I would say it was Blacktown's greater experience which saw them win.

"But they are a good side and are just so strong all over the field.

"Had we taken our early chances then it couldn't have been a different result."

And the good news for fans of the north Canberra side is that Lino Fiorese has no intention of going anywhere else.

Instead he is content to build upon the success of Belconnen United—both on and off the park.

That means consolidating his side's position in the Premier League being his only target.

"I'm not really thinking into the future about a coaching career," he says. The opportunities just aren't there in Australian soccer. I'm not about to throw away my job for soccer.

"I'm quite content at Belconnen."

Preston challenges for first grade recall

by Ray Sandell

WHAT happened to 1999 Super League Gold Medal winner Peter Preston?

The highly talented midfielder was hardly seen during the 2000 Super League season following knee surgery and further injury sustained earlier this year.

As part of his fitness rehabilitation Preston is playing as an over-age player in Central Coast's Under 19 Premier League side.

His winning goal against Canterbury Marrickville was a typical Preston finish and a warning to his first team counterparts that he is on his way back.

"I am as fit as ever and injury free at last," says Preston.

Can the Coasties continue to do without a fit Preston in their first grade side?

Their opponents all hope they can—as one Canterbury first grader said to him recently: "What the hell are you doing playing 19s?"

Canosa takes Bankstown job

FORMER Gippsland Falcon star defender Claudio Canosa will be at the helm of NSW Super League side Bankstown this season.

The hard man defender turned coach is hoping to kick start his new career in Sydney after recently completing a spell with the Australian Olympic team.

"I really enjoyed working under Raul Blanco with the Olyroos," he said, "and now I am looking forward to this new challenge.

"I spent one season as assistant coach at the Falcons but I believe that Sydney offers far more opportunities."

One of the first tasks that the much traveled former player faces is pruning down the Bankstown squad as he maneuvers to make space for some new signings.

Canosa has had spells at West Adelaide and also in Singapore during a long professional career which started in his native Argentina.

NATIONAL GRABS

"We have built ourselves a solid platform with just one loss in the first five games, but we need to string some wins together. Adelaide have hit form with two wins and they are very hard to be at home." Northern Spirit club captain, Robbie Slater before the Round 6 match.

"We are expecting a very confident Canberra Cosmos to arrive in Newcastle on Friday. Our lads are finding their feet after a gutsy draw against Northern Spirit last week." Newcastle Glen Sprod.

"A local derby is always a big game. We are happy with the way we are playing, but know that we cannot let our guard down against Marconi." Sydney Olympic's Ante Juric.

"This is probably the worst time of all to play Parramatta Power. After a last minute loss against Canberra Cosmos and the weather the way it is, the game will be difficult." Wollongong's Matthew Horsley.

"After last week's disappointing result, it will be vital to get three points at home. Wollongong are well up the table and will certainly prove a difficult opponent." Alex Tobin, Parramatta Power.

"It's always a difficult task against our sister club. A result at Somers Street would be excellent, but we will need to work hard." Sydney United's Aytek Genc.

"We needed an injection of confidence. I thought we played well in patches but fell away a bit in the second half. We needed to find the net and get the crowd stirred up a bit to get on a roll." Newcastle United coach Lee Sterrey before the match against Canberra.

"We knew coming into the game that Newcastle was lacking a little in confidence. We wanted to try and make sure we scored first but that was not to be. I thought their first goal was a critical part of the game and when they scored they lifted and made it difficult for us." Canberra coach Tom Sermanni.

"It will be a case of finding a stop-gap striker to play with Johnny Buonavoglia. I am currently talking with a player from interstate." Newcastle coach Lee Steerey on his striker injury problems.

"It's so important for us to get our first win but it's certainly not easy when things continually go wrong. Take Harper, for example. He looked like he was making progress. However, he turned up to training last night and could hardly walk." More form Lee Sterrey.

"Martin O'Neill was right when he said we are playing too many games. I can understand internationals when there is a big tournament coming up but a Scotland friendly against Australia and a Holland kick-about against Spain - what are they for? My players should be resting this week but instead many of them are away, which isn't good. We didn't return from our game against Aberdeen on Sunday until after midnight." Rangers manager Dick Advocaat on what he thought of Australia playing Scotland.

"Yes, the meeting was fiery, the majority of the clubs united in their anger. All I can say with regard to Eastern Pride's future is that we have just as much chance as anyone of staying in the competition. Our greatest strength is in our tangible assets, we own our venue unlike many clubs now in the league. The focus seems to guarantee the Sydney based clubs and more absurdly a New Zealand team, whilst leaving the remaining four Victorian clubs to fight for the spoils. That's an insult to Victorian soccer which has been the backbone of this game for many years. Many clubs have seen other ways in obtaining outside revenue to support their organisations, but yet again, Soccer Australia are unwilling to acknowledge this and it isn't part of the criteria. The governing body needs to be of an independent status, something along the lines of the AFL commission. All the clubs as far as I know are for it and the sooner it comes the better soccer in Australia will be." Eastern Pride CEO Peter Quirk on last Monday's NSL meeting and the plan to re-structure the top league.

"He is not allowed. He is getting an injection there and probably will be back in two or three weeks." Rangers manager Dick Advocaat on the rumour that Craig Moore might turn out for Rangers' sister club Northern Spirit while he was in Australia recovering.

"We would have lost this game last year. But this year we have really found some character when we've needed it." Olympic coach Branko Culina (pictured) said beating Marconi in the Sydney derby.

"We deserved to lose today, we got thoroughly out played. It's just disappointing. We have a big squad and players get an opportunity and they don't take it." Marconi coach Edi Krncevic.

Kolts build for 2001

Kellyville Kolts Soccer Club has commenced their preparation for the 2001 State League season.

Building on their remarkable achievements over the past two years, the Kolts are looking for further success in 2001.

The club entered the State League in Division 5 in 1999 and was successful in winning both first grade and reserves in that year.

This resulted in promotion to Division 4 and again both grades were successful in winning the title and gaining promotion to Division 3.

Coach Peter Dunn has been joined for next season by former Marconi and Hills United First Division State League player Mark Cooke.

The combination of the experienced and successful Dunn and the adept and highly accredited ex-player Cooke will add a further dimension to the Kolts preparation.

The Kolts have already signed a large number of last year's successful squad but are looking to further strengthen for the upcoming season.

Coach Peter Dunn is looking to expand the squad with a mixture of youth and experience.

"We are looking for another very successful season" he said.

"We have got one more year at Kellyville Park before we move to the four new fields at Marella Avenue, Kellyville.

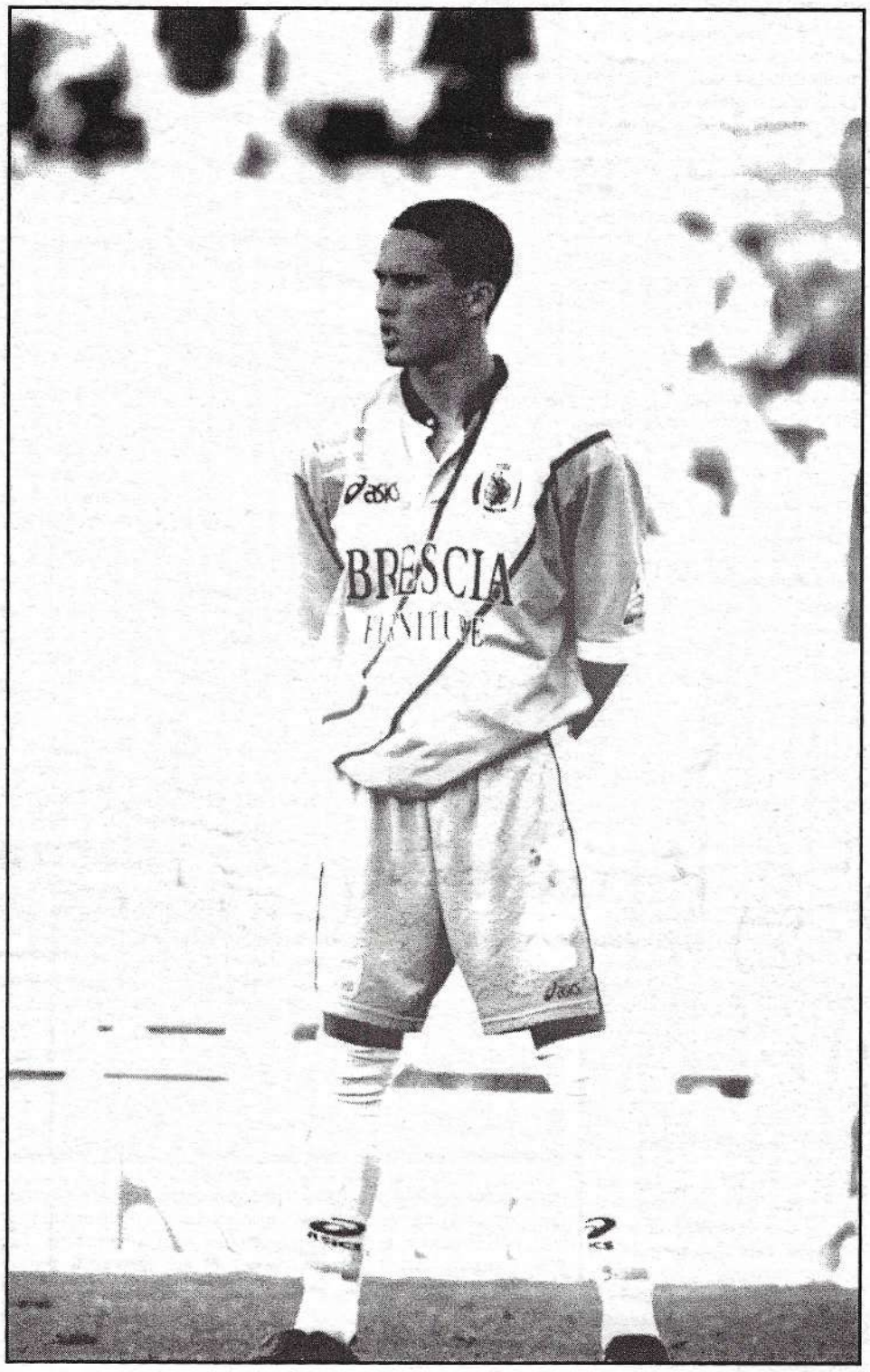
"Our players will enjoy outstanding facilities and excellent support."

The club has recruited a very experience team of support coaches and managers to assist players in their on and off field activities and to enable them to concentrate purely on playing football.

Further trials will be held at Kellyville Park, Memorial Avenue, Kellyville from 4:00pm this Sunday 26th November and next Sunday 3rd December. Further details can be obtained from Peter Dunn on 0418 661 748 or Mark Cooke on 0412 072 662.

One is going, one is staying

By Bruce Campbell



DESPITE being dumped form the starting line-p against Sydney Olympic the Stallions favourite son, Chad Gibson (right), is set to move overseas soon to an unnamed Norwegian side.

Marconi coach Edi Krncevic cited "poor recent form" for dropping the classy defender who is starting to make national boss Frank farina take notice.

Gibson has become a big favourite with the Bossley Park faithful—consistently running over to the club's fans after each match.

This season Marconi signed Chad's elder brother, John, giving the pair their first ever chance to play senior football together.

And while John Gibson never got further than the Australian Olympic side his kid brother is on target for a senior call-up—sooner rather than later.

In other Marconi news want-away striker Kris Trajanovski seems to have made his peace with the Bossley Park club.

Trajanovksi was on the verge of moving to Wollongong Wolves, frustrated at being unable to command a regular place in the Marconi starting line-up.

However his two goals against Sydney Olympic look to have put him back into coach Edi Krncevic's plans.

MEANWHILE Parramatta Power have been stepping up their interest in Newcastle striker Daniel McBreen.

The youngster has impressed Power coach Dave Mitchell who is said to be willing to unload Joe Vrkic in a cash plus player deal which would be worth $25,000.

Newcastle are considering the offer and a move, if it happens, is expected to be imminent.

Swearing referee: Power waiting on report

By Daniel Pace

IT TAKES a lot to surprise Parramatta captain Alex Tobin after 441 national soccer league matches but he says he was taken aback by referee Derek Rugg's performance in Parramatta's match against Canberra.

"I've been around for quite a few games and it was unusual the way he was conducting himself," said former Socceroo captain Tobin, who also played 113 games for Australia.

"I don't want to single him (Rugg) out and cause any disturbance but it was unusual."

Parramatta general manager Brad Levy has confirmed the club had submitted a report to national director of referees Gary Power and the players' union APFA about Rugg's handling of the club's 3-2 loss to Canberra at Parramatta Stadium.

Power fullback David Barrett has claimed New Zealander Rugg swore at him and his team-mates during the game and treated players with contempt.

"It's true we underperformed but the way that the referee addressed the players was disgraceful," Barrett said after the game.

"I know there needs to be respect there both ways but some of the swearing from the referee directed at players was something I've never come across before."

Tobin - the AFPA president - also voiced concern about Rugg's conduct.

"It's pretty rare really," he said. "Most referees don't get involved in that (swearing at players) too much.

"The PFA's opinion is that it's an inappropriate thing to do and that there should be a level of respect between the players and the referee.

"How this is going to be approached, I'm not exactly certain at this stage... but it'll be interesting to see where it goes from here."

Levy expressed the club's view.

"I'd be concerned about any official making comments like that on a sporting field," Levy said of the allegations.

"It doesn't matter whether you're playing under 7s or first grade for your club. At any level there's no place for that kind of behaviour in the game."

Referees boss Power said he would not comment on the specific matter until he had seen the paperwork.

"I'll tell you now there is an enormous amount of swearing (from players) that goes on during a national league match," he said.

"Some referees swear, others don't. It's advisable that they don't."

Power said the matter would not be resolved for at least two weeks because Rugg, who lives in Auckland, must reply in writing to any claims.

THE ROAD TO TOKYO

OCEANIA QUALIFICATION SERIES

GROUP A	GROUP B
Australia	New Zealand
Tonga	Tahiti
Fiji	Solomon Islands
American Samoa	Vanuatu
Samoa	Cook Islands

The winner of group 1 and group 2 will compete in a home-and-away play-off. The winner will qualify to compete in a home and away play-off against the team coming fifth in the CONMEBOL preliminary competition. The winner will qualify for the final competition of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan

CONMEBOL QUALIFICATION SERIES

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Argentina	9	7	1	1	20	8	22
2	Brazil	9	5	2	2	20	9	17
3	Paraguay	9	5	2	2	13	8	17
4	Colombia	9	4	3	2	8	6	15
5	Uruguay	9	4	2	3	12	7	14
6	Ecuador	9	4	1	4	10	13	13
7	Chile	9	3	1	5	11	11	10
8	Peru	9	2	2	5	6	8	8
9	Bolivia	9	2	2	5	5	14	8
10	Venezuela	9	1	0	8	5	26	3

Played 14 November:

Bolivia 0	Uruguay 0
Brazil 1	Colombia 0
Paraguay 5	Peru 1
Chile 0	Argentina 2
Venezuela 1	Ecuador 2

Matches still to play:

27-03-01	Buenos Aires	Argentina vs. Venezuela
27-03-01	Quito	Ecuador vs. Brazil
27-03-01	Montevideo	Uruguay vs. Paraguay
27-03-01	Lima	Peru vs. Chile
27-03-01	Bogotá	Colombia vs. Bolivia
24-04-01	Brazil	Brazil vs. Peru
24-04-01	La Paz	Bolivia vs. Argentina
24-04-01	Quito	Ecuador vs. Paraguay
24-04-01	Santiago	Chile vs. Uruguay
24-04-01	Venezuela	Venezuela vs. Colombia
02-06-01	Montevideo	Uruguay vs. Brazil
02-06-01	Buenos Aires	Argentina vs. Colombia
02-06-01	La Paz	Bolivia vs. Venezuela
02-06-01	Asunción	Paraguay vs. Chile
02-06-01	Lima	Peru vs. Ecuador
14-08-01	Brazil	Brazil vs. Paraguay
14-08-01	Quito	Ecuador vs. Argentina
14-08-01	Santiago	Chile vs. Bolivia
14-08-01	Bogotá	Colombia vs. Peru
14-08-01	Venezuela	Venezuela vs. Uruguay
04-09-01	Buenos Aires	Argentina vs. Brazil
04-09-01	Asunción	Paraguay vs. Bolivia
04-09-01	Santiago	Chile vs. Venezuela
04-09-01	Lima	Peru vs. Uruguay
04-09-01	Bogotá	Colombia vs. Ecuador
06-10-01	Montevideo	Uruguay vs. Colombia
06-10-01	Brazil	Brazil vs. Chile
06-10-01	La Paz	Bolivia vs. Ecuador
06-10-01	Asunción	Paraguay vs. Argentina
06-10-01	Venezuela	Venezuela vs. Peru
07-11-01	Buenos Aires	Argentina vs. Peru
07-11-01	La Paz	Bolivia vs. Brazil
07-11-01	Quito	Ecuador vs. Uruguay
07-11-01	Bogotá	Colombia vs. Chile
07-11-01	Venezuela	Venezuela vs. Paraguay
13-11-01	Montevideo	Uruguay vs. Argentina
13-11-01	Brazil	Brazil vs. Venezuela
13-11-01	Asunción	Paraguay vs. Colombia
13-11-01	Santiago	Chile vs. Ecuador
13-11-01	Lima	Peru vs. Bolivia

SuperSoccer talks to PAUL TRIMBOLI

SOUTH Melbourne captain, Paul Trimboli, is one of the NSL's most decorated and well-respected players and he recently he added to his impressive list of career achievements by becoming only the second player in the history of the league to score 100 goals for the same club.

Since crossing Melbourne from Sunshine George Cross in 1988, Trimboli has played 355 games with South Melbourne, a club record, and the goal-scoring feat he has accomplished reflects both his skill as a player and his loyalty to the club he loves.

SuperSoccer:
What does it mean to you to have scored 100 goals for South Melbourne?
Paul Trimboli:
It's certainly a milestone but to be honest, I hadn't really thought too much about it.

I got my 100th NSL goal toward the end of last season, which included four goals with Sunshine when I first started my career, but I didn't work out I'd managed the 100 goals for South Melbourne until a few people came up to me after the game to congratulate me.

Now that I've had a chance to think about it, though, I'm pretty proud of the achievement.

SuperSoccer:
When you started at South Melbourne, did you set yourself a target of what you wanted to achieve with the club?
Paul Trimboli:
I had just had a season playing with Sunshine when I was given the opportunity to go to South Melbourne.

Like any young kid, I just wanted to try and get a game every week, but I knew that wasn't going to be as easy with South Melbourne because they were one of the powerful teams in the league, while Sunshine had struggled through the season.

So my initial ambition was just to become a regular member of the team.

Even when that started to happen, I still didn't really set myself any targets with the club.

I've just always loved playing with South Melbourne and I've never seriously thought about leaving so over the years, I've found that these sorts of achievements and milestones have come along without me really focusing on them.

SuperSoccer:
What are your aspirations with South Melbourne for the rest of the year?
Paul Trimboli:
The club has obviously been pretty successful in recent times but last year, while we experienced probably the biggest high possible in going to the World Club Championships, we struggled in the domestic competition and finished tenth.

The club prides itself on being in the NSL finals in ever year so last year, we really felt we underachieved.

So our initial goal is to get back in the finals and beyond that, I guess the World Club Championships also have to be on the agenda because once you've experienced something like that, you always want to do it again.

SuperSoccer:
What career plans do you have beyond the 2000/01 season?
Paul Trimboli:
I'm contracted to South Melbourne for this year and the following year and I hope to continue past that.

I don't put any limits on myself, but obviously as time goes by, playing professionally will become a year-to-year prospect that I'll work out in conjunction with the club.

However, this is the first year in my whole career where I've been a full-time soccer player and that's enabling me to focus on facets of the game that I couldn't in the past, especially recovery time.

Before, I'd often have to work all day, then go to training, come home, have some dinner and go to bed in time to get up and start all over again the next day, so that meant I didn't necessarily get the recovery time I needed and I was always under pressure.

But now the club's gone professional and we have time to recover properly and to access physical trainers, massage therapists, etc on a regular basis, it's helping us keep in better shape physically.

Hopefully, in the long-term, that will help extend the careers of a lot of players, including myself.

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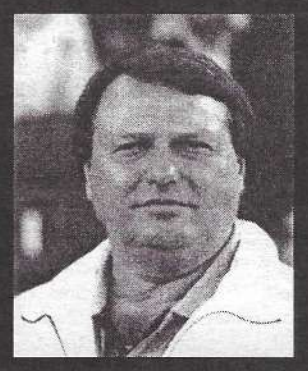

NEARLY 10,000 fans watched the opening round of the NSW Premier league.

Some said it would be a flop; others that the fans would stay away in droves.

Others predicted success.

Former national team coach Les Scheinflug (pictured) has even said that he thinks the national league should revert to a state based system with the champions playing in an end of season carnival.

But what do YOU think?

Join the debate by sending you thoughts to; SuperSoccer, PO Box 98 CORRIMAL NSW 2518 or email at supersoccer-themag@hotmail.com. (Fax 4285 7482).
You could also join or interactive newsgroup—just drop us a line.

Sydney United: aiming to be competitive under the threat of the NSL axe

By Bryan Cokely

Looking after the off-field matters: Sydney United chairman Marko Franovic (right) talking business with John Burns

THE veil of gloom has lifted out at Edensor Park and a bullish Sydney United have thrown down the gauntlet to the rest of the N.S.L. and its administrators.

In this do-or-die season United have dragged themselves back from an unenviable situation, where they were everyone's favourites to be cut for the proposed 12 team N.S.L., to one which even a dour pessimist might concede is strengthening each week.

The delay by one year of the Soccer 21 plan has given United that extra breathing space to fix up their problems on and off the field.

Senior player Aytec Genc summed up the new optimism when he said: "there is a really good atmosphere at the ground on matchdays.

"The place has come alive."

Crippling debts and uncertainty, saw Sydney United lose a Grand Final appearing squad in 1999.

Allegations of poaching by Parramatta Power are still current.

But never overestimate club loyalty these days when money is a prime motivator for many players.

Since then an unfortunate David Ratcliffe was asked to resurrect the club with his hands tied behind his back and hopping on one leg.

It was a difficult task at best.

The cast of players were mostly inexperienced by age or as State leaguers.

Genc and Kupresak carried the burden together in attempting to provide guidance, but it was not enough.

This season the lack of experience has been solved to the point where United look like a veteran's showbiz XI except these lads can still play.

Genc points out the difference: "The off field activities are now in full swing," he said referring to the clubs administration.

And on the park?

"Obviously Alan Hunter has come in and done a good job.

"As a coach a lot of the players relate to him really well.

"He is firm but fair.

"He can be one of the boys but he then has the authority and discipline to command respect from the players.

"He has built a team spirit around us being mates and looking out for each other.

""He's made some really good signings as well especially Francis Awaritefe and Zlatko Arambasic up front.

"Last year we lacked that punch in the goal scoring department, but I think we have got that now.

"Even in games where we haven't been playing that well we seem to be able to score at a crucial time.

"That has been the big difference", he said.

Additionally all of Hunter's new signings have settled well.

"Yes, as well as Francis and Zlatko we have Danny Burt who is a good character from Canberra and Richard Plesa has come back.

"We all get on well.

"We have got more senior players to look after the younger guys who have not had that many games in the national league," said Genc.

With an injury free run United could pull off a Top Six spot, but doubts remain about the depth of the squad.

Although Genc is optimistic that they have the quality in numbers.

"I wouldn't say we will win the league but we are going to be competitive," he said.

Who would have thought so a few months back.

It is a remarkable come back, and the pitch at Edensor park revived to where it is now one of the best in the league.

However the Soccer Australia criteria document has caused cold shivers at a number of clubs, United included.

Sydney United are not naive so that they do not recognise that the cold steel of the axe may yet fall on them.

It is still a possibility.

At first reading Genc is not impressed with the criteria, concerned that maybe it is not a level playing field, and hoping that it is not going to be a smokescreen for something that has already happened.

Even so Genc believes United can only do their best and said: "You have only got to come to the games.

"There is a fantastic atmosphere and there is a broad section of the community here."

So are Sydney United confident that they are back on track both on and off the field?

"Definitely," said Genc

Defector starts Coasties youth trend

JACOB Rex, the Australian Under 17 goalkeeper, has a lot of work to do to emulate his predecessor Jess van Stratten.

Both are ex-Coasties kids and are great mates but the rivalry continues.

They are both further evidence of the abundance of young talent emanating form the Central Coast of NSW.

Jamie McMaster, now an England Under 19 international and playing for Leeds United reserve team, set the trend a couple of years ago when he 'defected' to England and decided to play for the Poms.

Most of Central Coast's last season Super League Under 18 and Under 21 teams were locals ho came through youth teams or form local association teams.

A number of Central Coast young players are now playing with Northern Spirit or Newcastle youth teams.

Is it something in the air on the Coast, or is just further proof of the Coasties excellent youth policy.

Ray Sandell

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COKELY ON THE NSL

RECENTLY I have read and heard a lot about the physical qualities of modern players at all levels.

Harry Kewell expounded the virtues of the fit no-nonsense tough Aussie who is suited to the English Premier League.

But are we getting sucked in too much with the physical side of football?

Are we too obsessed with "beep" tests, 20 metre sprints and vertical jumps?

Whatever happened to skill and flair?

You would be forgiven for asking the question.

Steve Lazarri of Belconnen accused Penrith of being physical without much skill.

Why?

The reasons are not clear cut.

But anyone who has experienced junior football in New South Wales will know this.

Big is best!

From the national team down, soccer authorities are looking for athletes.

This means that to get into junior State squads you would need to pass certain athletic criteria, which is great for the national team, because, to compete at that level these days requires pace, power and endurance.

Note the dominance in these attributes the Socceroos had over the Scots last week.

Australian Soccer at National level has reaped the benefits of the AIS and it's application of Sports Science, and it will be no surprise to see Australia qualify for the next World Cup.

But this bigger and faster policy has had I believe an undesirable side effect in N.S.L .and State League football.

For every Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka (pictured above) there is an equal athlete who unfortunately is not blessed with natural football skills.

The skills and flair have to be manufactured into them and believe me trying to teach a sixteen year old to kick properly is not what you would expect to be doing for that age.

To make matters worse they may have just come back from State Squad training, so they often have an inflated view of their talents.

Many big, strong youth players are picked up by N.S.L. clubs because they still dominate right up until late teens.

The fact they are in the System means that many tend to hang around and eventually play first grade without distinction.

Meanwhile there are players with flair, skill and intuition who physically develop later who just aren't getting a chance.

Many of these are lost to the game as they become disheartened while they get overun on bumpy winter pitches, and then are ignored instead of the big boys come apprentice time.

A myopic safety first policy has dominated the N.S.L youth league which may be denuding our senior football of ball players with flair.

Would N.S.L. clubs be better served by expanding their thinking and being patient by signing some smaller skillful teenagers on potential.

Surely the brief of a youth team coach is to develop quality players for the first team, not just to win the youth league with big boys.

A better balance is needed to bring more flair back into the game.

Bryan Cokely is a former player with experience at a high level with Swansea City and Wollongong Wolves. He has also spent some time coaching. More recently he has written for Inside Soccer *and our sister publication,* CelticWorld. *Bryan brings a player's perspective to journalism.*

Bolton finds his voice and a home with Olympic

By Glenn Cullen

FORMER Brisbane Strikers custodian Clint Bolton has not only found his feet with the undefeated Sydney Olympic side, but it seems he's found his voice as well.

The 25-year-old goalkeeper even accepted an offer to appear in a commercial for the national soccer league - a sign of his growing self-confidence and stature.

But his disappointment at being unavailable to do the advertisement because of other commitments spoke wonders about the new attitude of the usually taciturn player.

"I suppose in the last season or two I've come out of my shell a bit," Bolton said.

"I've never been a big believer of shouting at players when they do something wrong but you just learn to know when a player needs a kick up the arse.

"You just choose your time that's all."

Bolton was the major purchase in an Olympic side lacking the names of last season.

The Sydney side lost Brett Emerton, Pablo Cardozo and Gabriel Mendez amongst others, and was expected to struggle this season.

Instead it has been the form side in the early part of the competition, racking up three wins and two draws with Bolton letting in just a solitary penalty goal in 450 minutes of soccer.

But typically Bolton, who played an international for Australia against Paraguay earlier this year, deflected much of the praise to his team-mates.

"I'm happy with my form but I haven't had a hell of a lot to do in all the games we've have played," he said.

"More credit goes to the defence and the way they have scrambled.

"They have put their bodies on the line and have stopped everything."

Bolton was a quiet but key performer with the Strikers, a keeper who rarely raised his voice but rarely let in an easy goal.

His countenance may have worked against him though, with many observers believing a domineering attitude is as much a part of being a `keeper as a great save.

But current Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina believes you have to scratch a little below the surface to find the real Bolton.

"You look at (Jose Luis) Chilavert, (Mark) Bosnich and many other `keepers and they have this character and personality about them that you can't miss," he says.

"Clint Bolton has it as well but in a different way.

"He's an introvert - he tends to keep to himself. It's not really in his nature to go out there to rant and rave.

"He's at a new club and I think it has pushed him to express himself a little bit more and prove himself more."

Now it's just a question of whether Bolton can push himself enough to earn a regular gig with the Socceroos, and perhaps an overseas posting.

"I obviously want to play for the Australia, play consistently and be the No. I keeper," he said.

"But it's not what drives me.

"Just playing here (at Olympic) does it for me at the moment.

"There's nothing better than being a goalkeeper and being in a game, standing back and doing nothing and watching the other players kill."

As for playing internationally Bolton says he is considering going to Belgium or Holland but will let his manager do the talking.

Bolton, after all, has to save the little he does for the field.

Spirit loan two while Catanzaro gets debut

NORTHERN Spirit youngsters Daniel Watkins and Adam Griffiths will spend the next month playing for struggling Eastern Pride after Northern Spirit released them on loan to get much-needed match fitness. Watkins scored a goal and Griffiths was strong in the Pride's 3-2 loss to Perth Glory on their debut.

Meanwhile Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold threw 19-year-old midfielder Simon Catanzaro into the starting line up for the round six National Soccer League clash with Adelaide City in Adelaide.

Catanzaro has been in sensational form for the youth side and was been drafted into the starting 11 after Spirit Captain Chi Chi Mendez was suspended for picking up four yellow cards.

Catanzaro played 17 first grade matches last season but Friday night's clash was only the second time he has started a National League match for Northern Spirit.

This season he has scored five goals in the Youth League.

"Simon is a very skilful player and he has been doing well in the youth team," Arnold said.

"We have been keeping a very close eye on him and he was always going to come into the side if Chi Chi was ever forced out of a match."

And defender Matthew Bingley took over the club captaincy in his side's 3-2 away loss to Adelaide City.

Spirit officials are still working with the English Football Association, and the Players Union in both Australia and the UK in an attempt to gain a clearance for Craig Foster.

"It is very frustrating, especially for Fozzie (Foster)," Arnold said. "He has been training hard to stay fit and he is itching to get out onto the field."

NSL ROUND 6 IN REVIEW .....

Vlahos demolishes Brisbane Strikers

Two hat-tricks ... two braces ... and super-sub performances marked Round 6 of the National Soccer League, with a tally of 32 goals across the eight games providing a highlight for fans of attacking football.

The action saw Sydney Olympic come from behind to beat Marconi, Wollongong beat Parramatta despite being a man down, the Mori & Maloney double-act at Perth Oval, and an Andy Vlahos one-man demolition job at the Bob Jane Stadium.

Kris Trajanovski was a half-time replacement for Marconi and earned the term super-sub with goals in the 75th and 76th minutes which put the home side up 2-1 against Olympic, in Saturday night's derby game at Marconi Stadium.

But Olympic replied with a super-sub of its own ... youngster Dylan MacAllister joining the action in the 80th minute and scoring the equaliser just three minutes later, while new recruit Glenn Moore capped off a solid performance, netting the winner in the 85th minute for a 3-2 scoreline to the visitors.

The victory maintains Sydney Olympic at the top of the league ladder, a position held on goal difference from Champions, the Wollongong Wolves, who turned on their own gutsy performance in beating the Power at Parramatta Stadium.

Unbeaten so far this season, the Wolves looked to be on shaky ground when midfielder Dino Mennillo was sent off in the 28th minute after earning a second yellow card for dissent.

But the Wolves, who lose Scott Chipperfield for the next 10 days to overseas trials, rallied in the second half, goals to Sasho Petrovski in the 57th minute, and Paul Reid in the 78th steering the visitors to a 2-0 victory, and continuing Parramatta's unhappy run.

In Perth, the Football Kingz were well and truly on the receiving end, as Damian Mori and Brad Maloney decided to turn on a show of their own in the Glory's 5-1 thrashing of the Kingz.

Maloney opened the scoreline in the fourth minute, before Mori bagged his hat-trick with goals in the 29th, 34th and 37th minutes, opening up a 4-0 scoreline to the home side, and in the process, becoming the second player in three weeks to score three against the Kingz in a half of football.

Paul Urlovic managed one from the penalty spot in the 39th minute for the Kingz, for a 4-1 scoreline at half time, but Maloney wasn't finished for the evening, bagging his second in the 68th minute, to see the Glory into clear fourth place on the ladder.

At the Bob Jane Stadium, Andy Vlahos turned on the fireworks with his own hat-trick, leading South Melbourne to a 3-0 victory over the Brisbane Strikers.

Vlahos scored in the 39th, 66th and 71st minutes before being replaced in the 74th, the victory pushing South to third position on the league ladder.

And at Knights Stadium, the Melbourne Knights bounced back to form and in the process burst the Sydney United bubble four times.

Andy Vargas started the scoring for the home side in the 13th minute, Toto Da Costa made it three goals from three outings in the 25th, Joel Porter added the Knights' third in the 50th, while Alex Kiratzoglou wrapped things up for the home side in the 65th minute.

In other games, Adelaide City's youngsters defied experience as they beat Northern Spirit 3-2 at home, each of City's goals coming from a player aged 18 or younger ... Carlton defeated Eastern Pride 3-1 in the game at Epping Stadium .. and Newcastle United picked up its first victory of the season, edging out Canberra 2-1 at Marathon Stadium.

Meantime on the goal-scoring charts, Archie Thompson maintains his lead at the top with another goal against the Pride, the Carlton striker averaging a goal a game with six so far this season ... breathing down his neck though, are the weekend's hat-tricksters Mori and Vlahos, who each have five.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND 6

Friday November 17
Adelaide City 3 Northern Spirit 2
Newcastle Utd 2 Canberra Cosmos 1
Carlton 3 Eastern Pride 1
Saturday 18 November
Perth Glory 5 Kingz 1
Marconi Stallions 2 Sydney Olympic 3
Sunday 19 November
Melbourne Knights 4 Sydney United 0
South Melbourne 3 Brisbane Strikers 0
Parramatta Power 0 Wollongong Wolves 2

THE HOT GUNS

Perth Glory's Damian Mori and South Melbourne's Andy Vlahos have moved to within one goal of leading goalscorer Archie Thompson after scoring impressive hat-tricks on the weekend.

Mori, who in Round 5 scored his 150th NSL goal, scored his first goals in front of his new home fans at Perth Oval, with a first half hat-trick that saw Perth go into the break with a 4-1 lead against the hapless Kingz FC.

Vlahos, who had not scored since the opening night of the season, grabbed all three goals for South, in their emphatic 3-0 win over Brisbane Strikers.

Thompson scored his sixth of the season, with the third goal in Carlton's 3-1 win over Eastern Pride.

6 THOMPSON Archie Carlton
5 MORI Damian Perth
5 VLAHOS Andy South Melbourne
4 BURGESS Ben Northern Spirit
4 STEVENS Tim Kingz FC
3 MALONEY Brad Perth
3 ANGELUCCI Jon Canberra Cosmos
3 TRIMBOLI Paul South Melbourne
3 GRIFFITHS Joel Parramatta Power

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

Saturday November 25

Belconnen Blue Devils

v

St George Saints

West Belconnen Sports Centre
Hardwick Crescent, Holt

Under 19's kick-off at 4:30pm
First grade kick-off at 6:30pm

blue devils

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SCOREBOARD

SOCCER NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Blacktown City	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
2	Belconnen	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
3	Bonnyrigg	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
4	St George	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
5	Canterbury Marrickville	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
6	Leichhardt	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
7	Central Coast	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
8	Sutherland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
9	Parramatta	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
10	Penrith	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

SOCCER NSW PREMIER LEAGUE (Youth Grade)

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Leichhardt	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
2	Belconnen	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
3	Central Coast	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
4	Blacktown City	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
5	Canterbury Marrickville	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
6	Bonnyrigg	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
7	Parramatta	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
8	Sutherland	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
9	Penrith	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
10	St George	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	QAS Sting	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
2	NSW Sapphires	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
3	Northern NSW Pride	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
4	SASI Pirates	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
5	Victoria Vision	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
6	ACTAS Canberra Eclipse	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Sydney Olympic	6	4	2	0	12	3	14
2	Wollongong Wolves	6	4	2	0	10	5	14
3	South Melbourne	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
4	Perth Glory	6	3	2	1	12	7	11
5	Carlton	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
6	Sydney United	6	3	1	2	8	12	10
7	Melbourne Knights	6	3	0	3	10	11	9
8	Adelaide City	6	3	0	3	9	13	9
9	Northern Spirit	6	2	2	2	9	7	8
10	Marconi Stallions	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
11	Canberra Cosmos	6	2	1	3	10	9	7
12	Parramatta Power	6	2	0	4	8	10	6
13	Kingz	6	2	0	4	10	14	6
14	Newcastle United	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
15	Brisbane Strikers	6	1	1	4	7	12	4
16	Eastern Pride	6	0	1	5	8	15	1

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Northern Div)

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Northern Spirit	5	5	0	0	16	4	15
2	A.I.S.	6	5	0	1	9	6	15
3	Wollongong Wolves	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
4	Marconi Stallions Youth	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
5	Parramatta Power	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
6	Marconi Stallions Colts	5	3	0	2	14	4	9
7	Sydney United	4	2	0	2	7	4	7
8	Q.A.S.	7	2	0	5	14	23	6
9	Sydney Olympic Youth	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
10	N.S.W.I.S.	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
11	Newcastle United Youth	4	1	0	3	3	4	3
12	Canberra Cosmos	4	1	0	3	9	11	3
13	Newcastle United Colts	3	1	0	2	1	9	3
14	ACT Academy	5	1	0	4	3	18	3
15	Sydney Olympic Academy	5	0	1	4	3	11	1

SOCCER BRIEFS

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND 6
Friday November 17
Adelaide City 3 Northern Spirit 2
Newcastle Utd 2 Canberra Cosmos 1
Carlton 3 Eastern Pride 1
Saturday 18 November
Perth Glory 5 Kingz 1
Marconi Stallions 2 Sydney Olympic 3
Sunday 19 November
Melbourne Knights 4 Sydney United 0
South Melbourne 3 Brisbane Strikers 0
Parramatta Power 0 Wollongong Wolves 2

NSW Premier League

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3
Friday 17 November
St George Saints v Parramatta Eagles PP
Saturday 18 November
Central Coast 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2
Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Canterbury Marrickville PP
Belconnen Blue Devils 1 Blacktown City Demons 2
Penrith Panthers v Sutherland Sharks PP

NSW PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 3
Friday 17 November
St George V Parramatta PP
Saturday 18 November
Penrith V Sutherland PP
Belconnen 3 Blacktown City 4
Bonnyrigg V Canterbury Marrickville PP
Central Coast 1 Leichhardt 4

NSW Sapphires 5 (Kristine Collins 21m, Rockall 47m, 83m (pen), Golebiowski 63m, 78')
Northern NSW 1 (Gill 34m)
NSW: Kell, Kristine Collins, Warrener, Klessattel (Ledbrook 63'), Rockall, Tann-Darby, L.Collins (Kathryn Collins 68'), Golebiowski (Cannuli 81'), McLaughlin, Carney, Garriock (McCallum 81').
Cautions: Golebiowski 79m
Northern NSW Pride: Praszczalek, Alley (Stevens 24'), Ingles, Wilson, Amber Neilson, Dunne (Aimie Neilson 66'), McMinn, Crawford (King 52'), Gill, Attwill (Colthorpe 81'), Salisbury.
Nil Referee: Aaron Lowther

NSW Sapphires 1 (McLaughlin 11m)
QLD 3 (Maza 3m, Mann, 25m, Revell 30m (pen))
NSW: Kell, Kristine Collins (Kathryn Collins 60'), Warrener, Klessattel, Rockall, Tann-Darby, L. Collins, Golebiowski, McLaughlin (Cannuli 55'), Carney, McCallum (Ledbrook 29m).
Cautions: Golebiowski 75m
Queensland Sting: Nichols, Bartlett, Nolan, Maza (Reuter 82'), McShea, Duus, Revell, Mann (Dunne 75'), Tramacchi, Ferguson, Harch (Canham 39').

Central Coast 1 (S Knight 88m)
Leichhardt 2 (M Borg 33m, V Tomasevic 87m)
Central Coast: Moore, Steele, Matthews, Hokin, Peatey, Knight, Williams, Ritchie, Roper (Byrn 74m) Leary (Cutler 63m) Marshall (Northam 79m)
Cautions: Roper
Leichhardt Tigers: Anastasiadis, Macolino (Ucchino 79m), Milicevic, Luksic, Galluzzo, Tomasevic, Bruni, Karavatakis, Borg (Tomich 89m), La Rocca (Stubbs-Mills 74m), Fuchs

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Belconnen 1 (M Julienne 65m)
Blacktown City 2 (D Iocca 32m, D Brown 37m)
Belconnen: Giannasca, Manson, Cachia, Pietrukowski, Unwin (Jenkins 57m), Mauro, Zamora, Lazzari, Howarth, Whittington, Julienne (Schroder 79m)
Blacktown City: Crawley, Yates, Sermanni, Langan, Racker (Donev 67m), Mikoutski, Brown, Willard, Iocca, Gatt, Angievski (Riches 77m)
Cautions: Donev

Perth Glory 5 D Mori 29', 34', 37' B Maloney 4', 68'
Kingz FC 1P Urlovic 39' pen
Venue: Perth Oval
Referee: Jeremy Blaney
Attendance: 11,909
Cautions: B Despotovski 61'P Buljan 72' P Urlovic 39'
Perth Glory: 1 Jason Petkovic (gk) 2 Robert Trajkovski (-69') 3 Jamie Harnwell (-82') 4 Ljubo Milicevic 6 Gareth Naven 7 Scott Miller 8 Brad Maloney 10 Bobby Despotovski (-64') 15 Edgar Aldrighi Junior 16 Damian Mori 18 Shane Pryce Substitutes 12 Peter Buljan (+64') 14 Dion Valle (+82') 17 Gary Faria (+69') 20 Tony Franken (gk)
Kingz FC: 20 Chris Marsh (gk) 2 Che Bunce (-77') 3 Aaran Lines 4 Levent Osman 9 Paul Urlovic 11 Dennis Ibrahim (-58') 13 Jeffrey Campbell 15 Ivan Vicelich 18 Michael Cartwright 21 Riki Van Steeden (-67') 30 Mark Burton. Substitutes
6 Chris Jackson (+77')12 Harry Ngata (+58')16 Lee Jones (+67')1 Julio Cuello (gk)

Carlton 3 A Marth 24' J Markovski 38' A Thompson 83'
Eastern Pride 1 B MacNicol 36'
Venue: Epping Stadium
Referee: Craig Zetter
Attendance: 3,187
Cautions: A Packer 86' D Watkins 6' A Griffiths 13'C Bell 34' N Sekulovski 37'
D Fak 58'
Red Cards: C Bell 63'
Carlton: 1 Dean Anastasiadis (gk) 2 Dave McPherson 3 Craig Deans 4 Simon Colosimo (-16') 5 Sean Douglas 6 Andrew Marth 7 Robert Middleby (-52') 11 Archie Thompson 14 John Markovski (-60') 16 David Terminell 21 Andrew Packer Substitutes 17 Angelo Motsiopoulos (+60') 19 Daniel Vasilevski (+16') 25 Ivo De Jesus (+52') 20 Steve Tilovski (gk)
Eastern Pride: 20 Eugen Galekovic (gk) 2 Dean Fak 3 Manny Gotis 4 Dong Ki Kim (-79') 8 Clayton Bell 9 Neville Roach (-22') 11 John Hutchinson 12 Naum Sekulovski 17 Paul Wearne 18 Daniel Watkins 19 Adam Griffiths (-65') Substitutes 6 Brian McNicol (+22') 7 Michael Katz (+65') 10 Robbie Puca (+79')

Parramatta Power 0
Wollongong Wolves 2 S Petrovski 57' P Reid 78'
Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Referee: Simon Micallef
Attendance: 4.138
Red Cards: D Mennillo 28'
Cautions: P Reid 24'D Mennillo 28'S Chipperfield 41'M Horsley 41'S Petrovski 46'
Parramatta Power: 1 Andrew Crews (gk) 2 David Barrett 3 Ahmad Elrich 4 Nick Orlic 5 Alex Tobin 9 Joe Miller (-71') 10 Joel Griffiths 13 Milan Blagojevic 23 Andrew Clark (-61') 28 Peter Bennet (-45') 29 David Lee Substitutes 7 Steve Eagleton (+61')14 Matt Thompson (+71')21 Hamilton Thorp (+45')24 Liam Reddy(gk)
Wollongong Wolves: 20 Grant Barlow (gk) 2 George Souris 5 David Cervinski 6 Matt Horsley 7 Paul Reid 9 Saso Petrovski (-78') 10 Stuart Young 11 Scott Chipperfield 15 David Huxley (-85')
17 Ben Blake 23 Dino Mennillo Substitutes 4 Robert Stanton (+78') 13 George Nohra (+85')18 Paul O'Grady 30 Scott Whalan (gk)

Marconi Stallions 2 K Trajanovski 75', 76'
Sydney Olympic 3 N Carle 65' pen D MacAllister 83'G Moore 85'
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Referee: Mark Shield
Attendance: 5,011
Cautions: A Costanzo 50' D Longo 51'D McDonald 60' S Sinozic 22' G Moore 37'
Marconi Stallions: 1 David Aceski (gk) 4 Angelo Costanzo 5 Dominic Longo 8 Darren McDonald 9 Norman Tome (-45') 10 John Maisano (-60') 11 Christian Care 13 Raphael Bove (-22') 14 Buddy Farah 17 John Gibson 19 Brendan Renaud
Substitutes 3 Mark Babic (+22')
7 James Afkos (+60') 22 Kris Trajanovski (+45') 20 Michael Turnbull (gk)
Sydney Olympic: 1 Clint Bolton (gk) 2 Sebatian Sinozic 3 Lindsay Wilson 4 Paul Kohler 6 Ante Juric 8 Ante Moric (-59') 9 Mass Sarr (-80')10 Troy Halpin 12 Glenn Moore 14 Greg Owens (-82') 19 Nick Carle Substitutes 11 George Goutzioulis (+59')13 Damon Collina (+82')15 Dylan MacAllister (+80')20 John Karoubas (gk)

Adelaide City Force 3Brain 6' S Tunbridge 51' I Karlovic 65'
Northern Spirit 2 S Catanzaro 40'B Burgess 42'

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Referee: Brett Hugo
Attendance: 3,661
Cautions: G Lagati 30' M Cunico 42' S Thomas 53' S Catanzaro 73'
Adelaide City Force: 1 Adrian Cagalj (gk) 2 Gianluca Lagati 4 Ante Kovacevic 5 Fabrizio Bucciarelli 6 Louis Brain 8 Carl Veart 9 Nick Sabljak 11 Bradley Hassell 12 Scott Tunbridge 15 Lucas Pantelis 18 Ivan Karlovic (-75')
Substitutes 10 Aurelio Vidmar (+75') 13 Kristian Rees23 Nick Budin 20 Daniel Godley (gk)
Northern Spirit: 20 Paul Henderson (gk) 2 Michael Cunico 3 Matthew Langdon 4 Matthew Bingley 6 Scott Thomas 8 Robbie Enes 9 Alex Moreira (-72') 11 Troy Cranney 12 Ben Burgess 16 Simon Catanzaro (-86') 30 Graham Arnold (-58')
Substitutes 25 Craig Foster (+58')15 Tony Perinich (+72')17 Paul Bilokapic (+86')1 John Perosh (gk)

South Melbourne 3 A Vlahos 39', 66', 71'
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Referee: Gerry Connolly
Attendance: 7,137
South Melbourne: 1 Michael Petkovic (gk) 3 Fausto De Amicis 4 Mehmed Durakovic 6 David Clarkson 7 Steve Panopoulos (-84') 8 Vaughan Coveny (-70') 9 Paul Trimboli 10 Con Boutsianis 13 Andy Vlahos (-74') 16 Zeljko Susa 19 Patrick Kisnorbo Substitutes 11 John Anastasiadis (+74')15 Goran Lozanovski (+70') 21 Massimo Murdocca (+84') 20 Chris Jones (gk)
Brisbane Strikers: 1 Daniel Duke (gk) 3 Shane Stefanutto 5 Matthew Bell 6 Peter Grierson 9 Paul Foster10 Wayne Srhoj (-87')13 Stuart McLaren 15 Andrew Davidson 17 Jeromy Harris (-46') 18 Nick Meredith (-70') 22 Fernando Rech
Substitutes 7 Russel Miner (+87')16 Shane Smeltz (+46') 21 Lawrence Drake (+70')

Melbourne Knights 4 A Vargas 13' T Da Costa 25' J Porter 50'A Kiratzoglou 65'
Sydney United 0
Venue: Knights Stadium
Referee: Con Diomis
Attendance: 5,180
Cautions: J Porter 41' A Vargas 90' R Plesa 9' T Palapanis 16' F Awaritefe 90'
Red Cards: R Plesa 62'
Melbourne Knights: 20 Lupce Acevski (gk) 3 Rod Vargas 4 Sash Ognenovski 9 Joel Porter 14 Paul Magdic (-75') 15 Ransford Banini (-66') 16 Alex Kiratzoglou 18 Andrew Vargas 21 Zoltan Zold 22 Toto Da Costa (-38') 25 Adrian Cervinski
Substitutes 11 Xhezair Sulemani (+75') 13 Antun Kovacic (+66')19 Anthony Pelikan (+38') 29 Robert Graskoski (gk)
Sydney United: 1 Brett Hughes (gk) 2 Damien Foxe (-55') 3 Danny Burt 5 Richard Plesa 6 Vince Savoca 10 Nahuel Arrarte 15 Aytek Genc 16 Commins Menapi (-72') 17 Francis Awaritefe 18 Goran Talevski (-55') 21 Terry Palapanis
Substitutes 12 Tom Maric (+55')14 Kain Rastall (+55')28 Allen Picken (+72')20 Steve Tolios (gk)

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE V PENRITH PANTHERS

Friday 24 November
Henson Park
1st Grade Kick Off 8pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 6pm

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE

First-Grade:
41. Jose Bello Amigo
3. Mark D'Alessandro
5. Jose Mendes
7. Con Paradisis
9. Steve Christoforidis
11. Angelo Markopoulos
13. Eric Mexis
15. Adrian Molachino
17. Jim Corbo
19. Scott Wells
2. Michael Raeburn
4. Greg Collins
6. Matthew Percy
8. Fernando Pelegrino
10. Jim Nikas
12. Terry Sidiratos
14. Paul Gaffney
16. Simon Fedele
18. John Kyriazopoulos
1. Steve Angelov
Coach: Jim Patikas

Under-19: 1. Phillip Zabaks 2. Menelaos Kallianis 3. Con Tsiounis 4. Christos Dimitriou 5. Antony Mersiades 6. Arthur Kavgas 7. Andrew Vrahas 8. Marcelo Guerrero 9. Mark Baric 10. Scott Holmes 11. Bruno Silva 12. David Cavaco 13. Evan Hatziantoniou 14. Matias Gulle 15. Themis Kalathas 16. Jonathan Vavasis 20. Tristan Tulloch Coach: George Meglis

PENRITH PANTHERS

First-Grade:
22. Ivan Necevski
3. Steve Sweeney
5. Ben Wright
7. Bob Casserly
9. Danny Hinton
11. Chris Ackerley
13. Scott Ashton
15. Anthony Driene
17. Sandro Borsato
19. Con Siciliano
21. Alan Worobiej
Luke Boyd
Tim O'Connell
2. Paul Cleary
4. Kaan Davies
6. Jason Sciberras
8. Ryan Jones
10. Martin Driene
12. Simon Casserly
14. Shane Hammond
16. Jon Hawkins
18. Jon Grima
20. Osvaldo El Ali
24. Chad Taylor
Dave Gardiner
Coach: Stan Ackerley

Under-19: 1. Chad Taylor 2. Gus Orcajo 3. Dale Fillingham 4. Daniel Wells 5. Shannon King 6. Mark Mijas 7. David Gardiner 8. Craig Speechley 9. Omar Makki 10. Luke Boyd 11. Tim O'Connell 12. Naj Haddid 13. Jason Sciberras 14. Simon Emmanuel 15. Matthew Sutton 17. Brett Eldridge 18. Scott Tyrrell 23. Owen Rogers Coach: Jose D'jalo

LEICHHARDT TIGERS V BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

Saturday 25 November
Lambert Park
1st Grade Kick Off 7pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 5pm

LEICHHARDT TIGERS

First-Grade:
1. Shaun Woods
3. Blago Milicevic
5. Michael Galluzzo
7. Joe Bruni
9. Steve Karavatakis
11. Sam La Rocca
13. Andrew Falas
15. Greg Fuchs
17. Jason Lal
19. Andrew Nolan
21. John Paul Boutros
30. Con Anastasiadis
Coach: Les DeCelis
2. Fabio Macolino
4. Richard Luksic
6. Vuko Tomasevic
8. James Stubbs-Mills
10. Matthew Borg
12. Andrew Nicol
14. Zoki Adioski
16. Tony Tesoro
18. Daniel Ucchino
20. Luke Tomic
22. Joshua Bulgin

Under-19s: 1. Cameron Moore 2. Paul Nicolaou 3. Liam Cameron 4. Daniel Cunningham 5. Moussa Chahine 6. Joseph Ciano 7. Daniel Coluccio 8. Tom Quilty 9. Michael O'Riley 10. Francesco Zarrella 11. Peter Talcevski 12. Josh De'Kelly 13. Robert Campagna 14. Mark Catelli 15. Garry Van Diggele Coach: John Romeo

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES

First-Grade:
1. Fernando Greco
3. James Warburton
5. Tayfun Devrimol
8. David Harding
11. Johnny Ghisso
14. Leigh Gunn
16. Michael Hawrysiuk
22. David Reid
20. Trinity Allen
Coach: Doug Utjesenovic
2. Sasha Utjesenovic
4. Borislav Dragas
7. Javier Mancino
9. Colin Luff
13. Robert Gomez
15. Stewart Van Bentum
18. Rajko Mandic
23. Devrim Huseyin

Under-19: 2. Uros Vukelic 3. Daniel Kaluderovic 4. Garth Moring 5. Alex Arregin 6. Zeljko Gusa 7. Abraham Aroyan 8. Stavros Arzapitian 9. Daniel Borg 10. Darrell Fernandes 11. Bill Panoutsopoulos 12. Daniel McCann 13. Ryan O'Shea 14. Richard Minvielle 15. Daniel Koziow 16. Matthew Pearman Coach: Danny Blanusa

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVVILS V ST GEORGE

Saturday 25 November
West Belconnen Sports Ground
1st Grade Kick Off 6.30pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 4.30pm

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS

First-Grade:
1. Tony Giannasca
3. Matt Cachia
5. Craig Unwin
7. Oscar Zamora
9. Steve Lazzari
11. Geoff Howarth
13. Josh Whittington
15. Mark Jenkins
20. Chris Freeman
Coach: Lino Fiorese
2. Scott Manson
4. Lee Pietrukowski
6. Jaime Mauro
8. Leo Langone
10. George Cattanach
12. Robert Schroder
14. John Rakic
18. Matt Julienne

Under-19: 1. Chris Freeman 2. Greg Ralston 3. Karl Varley 4. Edward Harris 5. Sam Mehr 6. Trent Exposito 7. Seb Rizzo 8. Richard Pietrukowski 9. Michael Percival 10. Clinton Larfield 11. Brad Smith 12. David Selby 13. Simon Lloyd 14. Steve Lee 16. Paul Gagetti 20. Michael Thomsen 21. Rhys Turner Coach: Paul Ontong

St GEORGE

First-Grade:
1. Stacy Alogdellis
3. Nick Boliantitis
5. Michael Kladis
7. George Zabetakis
9. Angelo Petratos
11. Chris Kalantzis
13. Mirak Bacek
15. Steve Papadopoulos
17. Emmanuel Papageorgiou
19. Daisuke Nakayama
22. David O'Han
Coach: John Sentas
2. George Maglis
4. Archileas Markopoulos
6. Simon Verrender
8. Bill Petrovski
10. Leon Alexiou
12. Nick Polimenakos
14. Mark Bariamis
16. Alex Leris
18. Bradley Campbell
21. Max Sevares
23. Jamie Danaskos

Under-19: 1. Murray Nelson 2. Bill Madonis 3. Mark Stavroulakis 4. Tim Jesus 5. Joe Lempriere 6. Paulo Oliveira 7. Misko Pokrajac 8. Mark Guerreiro 9. Mohamed El-Reda 10. Joe Dia 11. Stane Pokrajac 12. Robert Tassone 13. Peter Andriotis 26. Stewart Vella Coach: Ian Gillan

SUTHERLAND SHARKS V BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS

Saturday 25 November
Seymour Shaw
1st Grade Kick Off 7pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 5pm

SUTHERLAND

First-Grade:
1. Dennes Olla
3. Dejan Ristovski
5. Alan Stajcic
7. Paul Donnelly
9. Pat Darvill
11. Ahmed Ibrahim
13. Leigh Magri
15. Anthony Kanaan
17. Dejan Ristovski
19. David Hofierka
Coach: Billy McColl
2. Jeremy Pettenon
4. Tony Judge
6. Sean Robertson
8. Jason Baron
10. Grant Bard
12. Grant McDonald
14. Kris Karanasos
16. Colin McAusland
18. Chris Zelvis
22. Daniel Farias

Under-19: 1. Adam Kurtz 2. Leigh Magri 3. Scott Allison 4. Nathan Trajcevski 5. Matteo Maiorana 6. Mathew Toogood 7. Ben Kasznik 8. Sefir Yildiz 9. Chris Velovski 10. Kris Karanasos 11. Matthew Parker 12. Ray Kelly 13. Stuart Southall 14. Carlo Musumeci 15. Marino Musumeci 16. George Galouzis 17. Andrew Wales 18. Matthew Said Coach: Alex Baird

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS

1. John Crawley
3. Jason Connolly
5. Chris Bradley
7. Paul Dee
9. Jim Aschner
11. Damien Brown
13. Steve Riches
15. Joshua Maguire
18. Adam Kwasnik
Coach: Brian Brown
2. Paul Yates
4. Peter Sermanni
6. Damon Langan
8. Mark Racker
10. Vadim Mikoutski
12. Zlatko Donev
14. Ben Willard
16. Patrick Gatt
19. Robert Angievski

Under-19: 20. James Wilkinson 21. Brett Mason 22. Ryan Noble 23 Feruccio Hanza 24. Steve Baveas 25. Chad Lewis 26. Roger Galayini 27. Gokhan Ada 40. Kurt Van Arkells
Coach: Tom McMorrow

PARRAMATTA EAGLES V CENTRAL COAST

Sunday 26 November
Melita Stadium
1st Grade Kick Off 6.30pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 4.30pm

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES

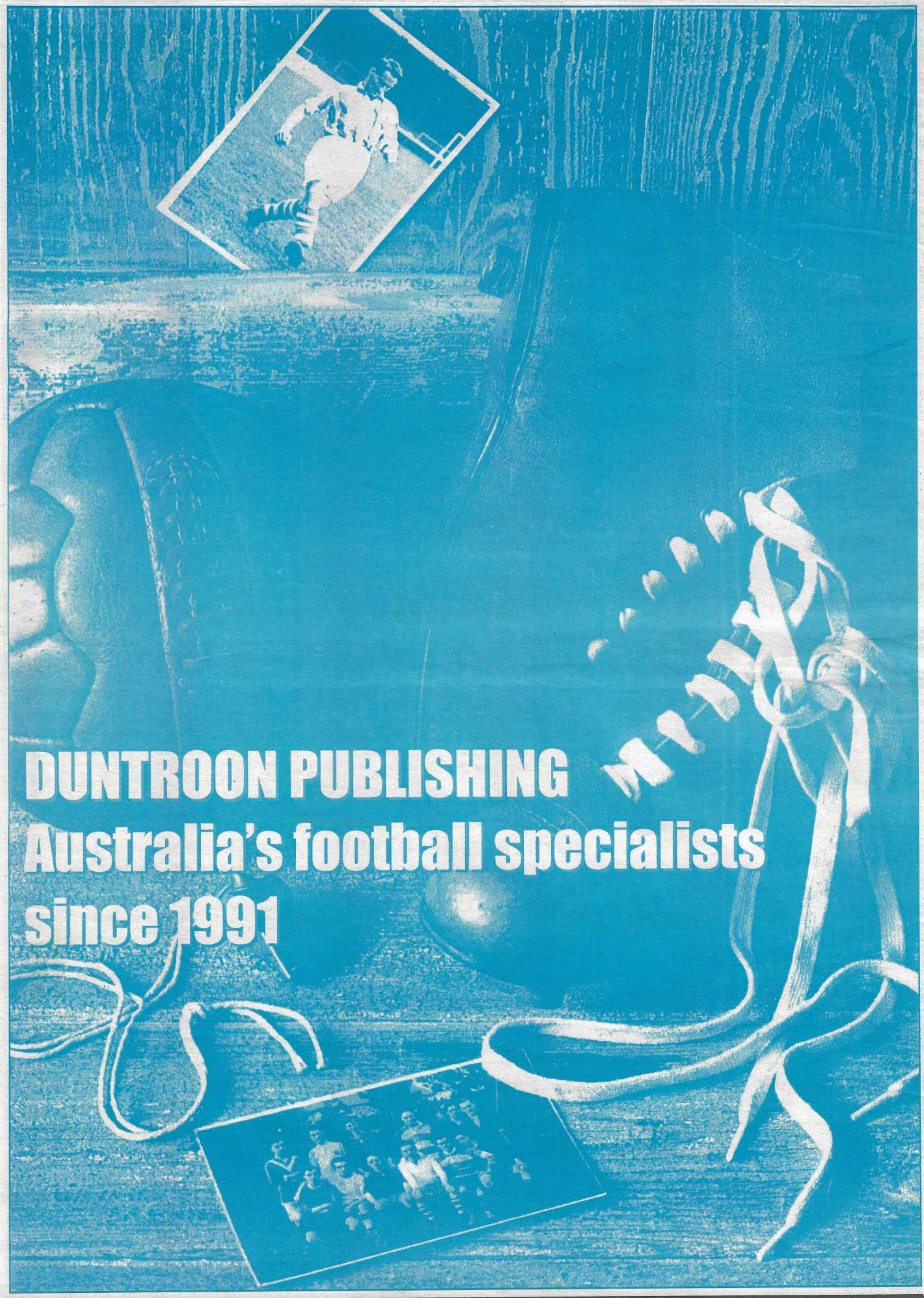
First Grade
1. Jason Holmes
3. Geoffrey Dwyer
5. Mark Reveley
7. Matthew O'Shea
9. Adam Anderson
11. Nikolce Joseski
13. Mauricio Islas
15. Ben Delicata
17. Ballamodou Conde
19. Mark Beldham
2. Daniel Borg
4. Malcolm Meilak
6. Tom Bazdaric
8. Alex Trpkoski
10. Anthony Mittiga
12. George Wakim
14. Stephen Chipps
16. Danial Cummins
18. Sung Jin Kim
22. Michael Xuereb
Coach: Tam Finlayson Asst Coach: John Calleja, Don Allan

Under-19 Ben Xerri Andrew Gaddes Nathan Spinks Robert Marangon Henry Schapers Simon Zahra Mark Lancaster Gregory Jackson Stephen Neligan Michael Sowato Michael Debono Alex Muscat Adam Mansueto Alioune Ndiaye Coach: Victor Ellul

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES

FIRST-GRADE:
1. Matthew Collitts
3. Marcus Steele
5. Dane Hokin
7. Adam Peatey
9. Nathan Byrn
11. Peter Ritchie
13. David Anderson
16. Ryan Marshall
18. Daniel Surridge
22. Darren Moore
Coach: Dale Eggleton
2. Mitchell Daley
4. Sean Matthews
6. Steve Cutler
8. Shane Knight
10. Mick Williams
12. Cal Roper
15. Peter Leary
17. Rod Hutchinson
19. Stuart Sontag
Asst Coach: Andrew Ollier

Under-19: 1. Scott Horvat 2. Scott Jones 3. David Brewer 4. Nathan Carmody 5. Michael Cook 6. Mark Falzon 7. Jason Donnelly 8. Justin Selkirk 9. Jason McMinimee 10. Reece Lewin 12. Daniel Surridge 13. Clint Smith 14. Peter Preston 15. David Anderson 16. Mick Coates 19. Stuart Sontag Coach: John McClafferty



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